Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-89-072 *17 April 1989*

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Cuba

Communist Party Member on Talks in Namibia

FL1404174889 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Interview with Carlos Aldana, member of the Communist Party of Central Committee Secretariat, by Irma Caceres included in a special report from Namibia during the weekend of 8 April—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Aldana] We could say we were fortunate because the statement issued by the SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization] leadership was released on the 2d day, that is, on the evening of the 1st day the meeting began. The statement expressed SWAPO's decision to withdraw its forces fighting in the northern part of the country to the Angolan territory under the custody of the United Nations.

It was this sovereign decision made by the SWAPO, the one that paved the way for a relatively swift solution. We then continued working with the other parties—with the participation of the United States and the Soviet Union as observers—in designing a formula for the withdrawal.

Now the matter is that this SWAPO decision is complied with, that the decision is strictly complied with, and that the withdrawal takes place. We hope that the suggestions we have made, the timetable we have presented to facilitate the withdrawal, facilitate a withdrawal that is safe for all, is taken on by the representatives of the UN secretary general, and is implemented in an expeditious, conscious, serious, and responsible manner so that we can permanently leave behind this unfortunate incident which created a very tense situation. We were seriously concerned that all the efforts made by Angola and Cuba for so many years, especially all last year, to find a peaceful solution would have been threatened as they really were threatened.

[Caceres] [Passage omitted] The only delegation to return was the South African delegation.

[Aldana] Yes, yes. They came in a small airplane. Actually, more than a delegation—the one who came was Botha. Immediately after negotiations are over one has to go out and explain, inform, because there is nothing secret here. There is nothing in these agreements that cannot be talked about, nothing that cannot be reported on. It is just the opposite. We found ourselves in a somewhat complex situation because we stayed there. [passage omitted]

This has been very interesting for all of us. This is a city we have talked about so many times. We have seen it on the map so many times for all these years. Being here is a very important experience for us. [passage omitted] It was very exciting for us to see the name of our country, of our fatherland, written in Spanish. [Video shows Viva Cuba! written on a wall] It is an expression of the young people we have trained, the ones who have worked with us in Cuba.

They are now here preparing for the political battle which is the battle SWAPO needs to prepare to wage; the political battle, the battle of the ideological struggle. They have to make good use of the alternatives which have been offered, the option that has appeared. It is not an easy option, it is not always going to appear under the best conditions, but it is the one that has been found. That alternative has to be taken advantage of as much as possible. I believe we have seen in those signs that there is a feeling that is only waiting for the dike to break. It is surely going to be expressed with a majority favoring the SWAPO. [passage omitted]

SWAPO Guerrillas Begin To Cross Into Angola

FL1404120989 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] Yesterday, some 30 SWAPO members crossed the Namibian border into Angola. However, only five of them went through the checkpoints established by the United Nations.

Those installations were denounced by the SWAPO leader [Sam Nujoma] as traps established by the Pretoria regime.

Freed Prisoners Return With Internationalists

FL1404120389 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] Last night, the three Cubans who were recently freed as part of the tripartite agreements for the situation on South-West Africa arrived in our country.

Commander of the Revolution Ramiro Valdez, along with other officials, greeted the arriving compatriots who arrived along with another 304 internationalist combatants returning from Angola.

Up to now, some 4,668 combatants have returned to Cuba after finishing their internationalist missions.

138 More Return

FL1504115089 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] Internationalist combatants who fulfilled missions in the People's Republic of Angola arrived in our country last night. The 138 compatriots who returned to the fatherland yesterday were welcomed by Commander of the Revolution Ramiro Valdes.

Rodriguez Greets Combatants

FL1504163389 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1602 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] You are part of the contingent of over 3,000 Cubans who have been defending Angola's independence for over 14 years as a continuation of the internationalism seen throughout our history. This was said by Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, during the official welcoming ceremony held at El Cacahual to the almost 600 internationalists who have arrived in Cuba in the last 3 days.

Internationalism has been expressed throughout Cuba's history since the war for independence with the giant Dominican Maximo Gomez, who headed the liberating army, said the member of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo. He added that: Che was with us in the final liberation war; he was a progressive representative of the world revolutionary force, and because of this, our participation in Angola was a historic debt we had to pay.

The battles of Quifangondo, Cabinda, and Cuito Cuanavale, among others, were examples of courage and firmness of our internationalist combatants, said Rodriguez. Now, he noted, you will join the battle for production and investments that will guarantee development for our people. Now, you will be combatants for the national economy, he added.

Rodolfo Estevez, Raul Estela, and Luis Milian, former prisoners of war who were exchanged at the Namibian border last 31 March, were among the almost 600 combatants who arrived recently from Angola present at the ceremony. The members of the contingent placed a floral wreath in honor of General Antonio Maceo and his aide Panchito Gomez Toro, and Blas Roca Calderio at El Cacahual, where their remains are resting.

TV Broadcasts Into Cuba Termed 'Grave Error'

FL1404173389 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] The initiation of broadcasting television programs from U.S. territory to Cuba is breaking basic laws and a grave aggression against the sovereignty of our country by the United States, said Carlos Aldana, secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba's [PCC] Central Committee, while meeting with the participants of the socialist countries' central newspaper directors' meeting.

In his dialogue with the visitors, Aldana also said that the U.S. Administration was committing a grave error by carrying out the television program against Cuba.

The Central Committee secretary also spoke about the process being carried out in South-West Africa, the present situation in Namibia, as well as how the rectification process is being handled in our country—inside of and outside of the PCC—and by the government organs.

Aldana: TV Marti 'Unacceptable'

FL1404235389 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2306 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] Carlos Aldana, secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee, said to the delegates attending the socialist countries' newspaper directors' meeting that the initiation of broadcasting television programs from U.S. territory to Cuba is breaking basic laws and a grave aggression against the sovereignty of our country by the United States. During the meeting that Aldana had with the visitors in room No 2 in the Palace of Conventions, the PCC Central Committee secretary termed as a grave error by the U.S. Administration, the carrying out the television programs against Cuba. He emphasized:

[Begin Aldana recording] We have done everything possible to persuade the authors of this project, the U.S. Administration, to the view that this is unacceptable. However, everything seems to indicate that our efforts have been in vain. Therefore, we have no other alternative but to begin preparing ourselves to confront this new phase of the U.S. aggressive policy against Cuba. [end recording]

During the exchange of opinions, Aldana also referred to the process that is being carried out in South-West Africa, the current situation in Namibia, as well as how the rectification process is being handled in our country—inside and outside of the PCC—and by the whole Cuban society.

Castro Tours Pan-American Facilities

FL1404115489 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] Yesterday [13 April], Commander in Chief Fidel Castro visited several of the works under construction for the 1991 Pan-American Games.

Castro toured the future Pan-American Villa, the tennis courts, and the Olympic Stadium, all of which are on the east side of Havana. The commander in chief spoke with project directors and workers. Castro was interested in the work conditions of the people, as well as the quality of the projects.

Approximately 400 minibrigade members, as well as members of Brigade Nos 7 and 8 of the Blas Roca Contingent, work in the areas visited by Castro.

Selection of Construction Workers to Armenia

FL1404233189 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2301 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] The national process to select the Cuban construction workers, which will form a vanguard contingent that will go to Armenia to work on the reconstruction of that brother Soviet republic, was begun today by Las Tunas Province. As it is known, the republic was affected last year by an earthquake.

This was announced by Pedro Ross Leal, secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and chairman of the commission that will organize the 16th Congress of the CTC [Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions], during a meeting with the workers of the contingent that build Las Tunas rolling mills. This contingent was the first one to announce its representative to join the oustanding group. Ross explained that every Ministry of Construction brigade, and contingent, as well as some minibrigades from all over the country will hold assemblies during which a candidate will be chosen to form the group that will travel to the Soviet Union.

This will constitute the fulfillment of the wish that was massively expresed by Cuban construction workers to go to Armenia to work on the reconstruction of that Soviet area.

Poland To Invest in Computer Factory
FL1404130589 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] Cuba has exported almost 4,000 computer keyboards to Poland. That brother country next to the USSR is the second country in the socialist world who is most interested in purchasing such equipment from our country.

Among the possibilities for bilateral cooperation is the acquisition of programs designed in Cuba to be applied in the health sector. Also, there was expressed interest on the Polish side to investment in the computer keyboard factory in our country.

Accord Signed With Lebanese Friendship Society
FL1504135289 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] An agreement between the friendship associations of Cuba and Lebanon has been signed at the Cuban Institute of Friendship With Peoples, ICAP, in this capital. The document was signed by Levy Farah, president of the Cuban-Arab Friendship Association, and Ilyas al-Habb, president of the Lebanese-Cuban Friendship Society.

The agreement includes more exchanges in the cultural, social, and news fields and the continuation of the traditional relations of solidarity between the two peoples.

(Elias el-Habb) said, in an exclusive interview for the 1300 edition of the National Television News, the following:

[Begin el-Habb recording in Arabic with simultaneous Spanish translation] Thus, your support, the support of Latin American peoples, the support of all the peoples of the world is very important. We depend on it and are very hopeful. Why? Because in the long run it will help us continue with our struggle until we reach great victories. Cuba plays a very important role in this solidarity, especially because of its influence on nonaligned countries. [end recording]

Rodriguez Meets Socialist Newspaper Directors
FL1404193289 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo, has received the heads of the delegations of the 13 countries attending the meeting of directors of the socialist countries' main organs at the Palace of the Revolution. Some of the topics discussed were Gorbachev's visit to our country, Cuba-USSR relations, the Cuba-U.S.-Nicaragua problem, the situation in southeast Asia, and the responsibility of the communist's and workers' press during these times through which man is now living.

Aldana Closes Meeting
FL1504013889 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] The meeting of socialist countries' central newspaper directors ended today with a speech by Carlos Aldana, secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee. The directors met for 3 days at the Palace of Conventions.

In his initial statements, Aldana discussed the strong ideological confrontation that has existed between the Cuban Revolution and U.S. Administrations during the past 30 years.

Answering a question from an Angolan delegate to the meeting, Aldana emphasized that Cuba is carrying out an expensive and complex effort to fulfill the withdrawal plan of its troops from Angola, in accordance with the Tripartite Agreement signed in New York. The Cuban party leader also referred to the economic and social situation that the African country is facing.

[Begin Aldana recording] No other African country has been put to the tests that Angola has. We are talking about 13 years. However, we could talk about many more if we go back to the beginning of the anticolonial struggle. There are children in Angola who think that war is a way of life, because that is all they have known since they were born. There are thousands of mutilated people—victims of a very cruel war, because it is a war that has been waged especially against the civilians. [end recording]

At the request of a DPRK delegate, Aldana said that we are currently working on perfecting our society. To accomplish this, he said, we are making efforts to improve the methods and organization of the party. In this sense, he emphasized, ideological work must be based on persuasion. The example of the cadres and party members play an important role in this principle, he said.

During the dialogue with the participants to the event, the secretary of the PCC Central Committee emphasized that ideological work must be carried out on a scientific basis which includes the application of sociology, public opinion research, and the mobilization of all contacts with the public.

In another part of his talk, Aladana referred to ideological work with youths.

[Begin Aldana recording] We have a nation which is getting younger. Every year, tens of thousands of youths join the work force and the political life. These youths did not live the capitalist past. However, their education cannot be limited to constantly reminding them that life used to be worse, that they should be grateful, and thus obedient. Rather, it is a matter of opening up a realistic space for them, so they can act as creators of the process, and assume the current responsibilities and problems. [end recording]

During the meeting, several agreements were signed between the guest delegations and the organ of the PCC, GRANMA.

At the end of this meeting of the socialist countries' central newspaper directors, we believe that because of the openness that characterized the various speeches, this meeting has contributed to a greater understanding of the national situation, to a more active exchange in the future, and to an enrichment of information that our nations deserve.

Over 7,000 Registered for 30 Apr Elections

FL1404130089 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] Over 7,000 voters are registered for the elections to be held on Sunday, 30 April. There are 29,600 delegates who are candidates for election. These delegates were freely elected by the people in recently held assemblies. Their biographies and photographs are on exhibit in public registration areas.

The hours for voting will be between 0700 and 1800. The second round for the election of delegates to the ANPP [National Assembly of the People's Government] will be held on 7 May in the areas where no candidate receives at least 50 percent of the votes.

Fire in Electrical Center Causes Serious Damage

FL1404130389 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] A fire with possibilities to spread began in, and caused considerable damage to, the electricity distribution center on Boyeros Avenue, kilometer 6.5 in Havana.

The rapid action by the workers and the MININT's [Ministry of the Interior] Directorate of Fire Prevention stopped the fire from causing greater damage.

The machine operators' and data processing rooms suffered serious damage, as well as the technicians' room and the supervision room, where computers and programs were located.

From the electrical standpoint, the fire will not affect the population. The workers of that enterprise have committed themselves to restore the work center within 3 months.

Members of Police Auxiliary Force Decorated

FL1504155089 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] One hundred and sixty-seven members of Havana's National Revolutionary Police [PNR] auxiliary forces received the special seal certifying them as national and provincial vanguards today. The solemn ceremony took place at MININT's [Interior Ministry] Cristino Naranjo social circle and was presided over by MININT officers and leaders of the party and mass organizations in the capital.

MININT's order No 4 indicates that the seal is conferred to the courageous group of comrades for their outstanding behavior in dealing with criminal and antisocial activities and their spirit of sacrifice and devotion to the tasks. The efficient work of the PNR's auxiliary forces in Havana was highlighted by Brigade General Alberto Garcia Intensa, chief of the PNR. In congratulating those decorated, he noted that they are the strength of the MININT because they represent the strength of our working people.

Official Denies Report on Fishing Ship Incident

FL1504180989 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Interview with Jesus Benjamin, vice president of the National Fisheries Institute, by Diosdado Maso; place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Maso] The Spanish news agency EFE reported a few hours ago that a blasting powder was placed in a Cuban fishing ship located north of Spain. For this reason, Radio Rebelde contacted the Ministry of the Fishing Industry and talked to Jesus Benjamin, vice minister of the fishing industry [as received], to learn about this report. Comrade Benjamin, we would like for you to explain what you know about this Spanish news agency report.

[Benjamin] We immediately talked to Comrade Jorge Berea, who is the director of our fishery base in Vigo, Spain where these ships are serviced, and asked him about it. The comrades immediately went to our ships. The "Rio Contramaestre" fishing vessel, from the Cuban fishing fleet, was in this transit port. Its captain, Comrade Jose Sanchez Hernandez, reported—and it was physically confirmed there—that there was no problem. That is, the Cuban ship was immediately checked and no problems were noticed. According to the reports we

have, which were officially obtained by our representative in Spain, there has been no problem with the Cuban fishing fleet ship. There is no reason for the relatives of our comrades to be alarmed inasmuch as this situation does not exist.
[Maso] Thank you very much, comrade.
[Benjamin] Sure, you are welcome.

Barbados

Sandiford Gives Details of 1988 Economic Report

FL1504181889 Bridgetown CANA in English 1658 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, April 15, CANA—The Barbados economy continued to grow last year and the government's fiscal position improved, according to a 1988 economic report. However, domestic oil production remained down for the third successive year, unemployment remained virtually unchanged, and the rate of inflation was up.

The report is expected to be lain in parliament Tuesday. Prime Minister and Finance Minister Erskine Sandiford gave details of the document. He said it indicated that real output increased by 3.5 percent in 1988 as compared with 2.2 percent in 1987. The nominal gross domestic product (GDP) at factor cost, estimated at 2,655 million dollars (one Bds dollar—50 U.S. cents) during 1988, was 6.7 percent higher than in the previous year.

"Per capita GDP," said Sandiford, "rose by 4.6 percent to 10,500 dollars as population grew by only 0.1 percent. Inflation was again moderate at 4.8 percent compared with 2.4 percent in 1987. Two thousand, three hundred new jobs were created but the rate of unemployment, at 18.6 percent, remained virtually unchanged from September 1987, due to a larger labour force," the minister of finance added.

Sandiford said that two of the main export sectors—tourism and manufacturing—were responsible for over sixty percent of the real growth in the economy.

"Growth was also strong in construction and utilities and wholesale and retail trade grew by 2.5 percent," he said. "Real output in the agricultural sector declined again in 1988 due partly to adverse weather conditions, insect infestations and labour shortages. Output of the mining and quarrying sector declined by 8.3 percent as the slump in international oil prices in 1988 resulted in lower domestic oil production for the third consecutive year."

Sandiford said the overall deficit of the central government for the fiscal year 1988/89, estimated at 127.8 million dollars, was 4.8 percent of GDP, significantly below the deficit of 227.2 million dollars or 9.0 percent of GDP in 1987/88.

The revenue raising measures and efforts to control expenditure achieved success, Sandiford reported. Efforts to control both current and capital expenditure during the year met with some success: current spending rose by 4.5 percent compared to 19.3 percent in the previous year and capital expenditure and net lending rose by 11.4 percent, following the 19.9 percent increase a year earlier.

Sandiford said the report also noted overall the balance of payments was in surplus by 70.0 million dollars compared with a surplus of 40.51 million dollars in 1987. There was an improvement on the current account of the balance of payments as the deficit fell from 107.0 million dollars in the previous year to 1.0 million by 1988, he noted.

Grenada

Brathwaite Turns Down Invitation To Join NNP

FL1404214589 Bridgetown CANA in English 1623 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] St George's, Grenada, April 14, CANA—Former Grenada government leader, Nicholas Brathwaite, says members of the ruling party admitted that leadership problems could hurt its chances of winning the next election, when they tried to woo him. Brathwaite, a 64-year-old politician who headed the interim government after the U.S.-led invasion of Grenada in 1983, said people in the New National Party [NNP] were worried about Prime Minister Herbert Blaize's leadership.

Brathwaite, who served one year service in the interim government before general elections were held in December 1984, later headed the opposition National Democratic Congress (NDC).

He said he declined the invitation to join the NNP because he could not work with Communications Minister Keith Mitchell. Brathwaite claimed Mitchell was one of the persons who ten months ago sought to have him join the ruling party and identified Prime Minister Blaize as one of their difficulties. "Before they asked me to join NNP", he said, "they told me the party had a serious problem of leadership which will affect the party's chances adversely in the next elections".

In the meeting with Mitchell, Brathwiate said Mitchell told him:

"First, NNP has a problem going into the next elections with Blaize as political leader, and, secondly, the party is trying to attract persons of high calibre to its ranks."

Brathwaite said he emphatically turned down the invitation to join the NNP, telling Mitchell that that invitation was no more than an attempt to involve Brathwaite in a "plot" to remove Blaize as NNP political leader and he would have nothing to do with it.

Brathwaite identified Health Minister Danny Williams and Grenada's U.S. ambassador Lamuel Stanislaus as two others who sought to influence him.

Haiti

Further on Aftermath of Port-au-Prince Situation

Avril Grants Interview

FL1404231289 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 14 Apr 89

["Excerpt" of interview with President Avril by unidentified reporter, aired on the Canadian television program Le Point; date and place not given—monitored in progress]

[Text]...When they questioned him about when elections would be held, the general talked about the different stages he had to go through before arriving at elections. Among these stages are the formation of the Provisional Electoral Council, the preparation of the organic law, the formation of the Permanent Electoral Council, the electoral law, etc.

When the journalist came back, again, to the same question as to when there would be elections, the general said: If we want to achieve something of value, we cannot think elections now.

What is he going to do with the 29 November and 11 September criminals? The general answered that that was not his job.

How many millions did Duvalier make off with? The general again said he couldn't say.

Is he going to make an effort to get this money back into Haiti? Well, the general said it would cost too much. However, he would be happy to see the millions return.

Let's listen to an excerpt from this interview, which was in French.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] (?About these) elections, when will they be held? You promised them. You have formed a new electoral council. So when will these elections be held, General, do you think?

[Avril] When will elections be held? That is a very big question. We cannot, given the current state of national political life, determine exactly when we are going to have these elections. I know that I myself have already triggered the electoral process. Despite wind and tide, I have been able to get the decree creating the electoral council out. I was able to get out the list of names of the people who are to be on the electoral council. I was able to, on the very day that there was, uh... [rephrases] on the basis of [word indistinct], have some of the members of the electoral council take the oath of office at the law courts, which is only 50 feet from the Dessalines Barracks, that is, at the very center of the action. We had courageous citizens who came to be sworn in as members of the Permanent Electoral Council [as heard]. There are nine people on the council, and five of them showed up. The other four are going to come in tomorrow morning to be sworn in, and the government is going to work with them to establish the organic law of the Permanent Electoral Council [as heard], and then work to implant the council, and then work on drawing up the electoral law.

[Reporter] Well, then I ask you the question [words indistinct] personally, since you are currently president of Haiti. Will there be elections before the end of this year, or will they be next year? Or will they be even later?

[Avril] Well, (?there), since I see that you are insisting on the question, my concern is not exactly escaping and holding elections next month. I could tell you that I am going to hold elections next month. But will holding elections next month solve the problem?

The Haitian problem is not exactly this problem that people think they have to place at the forefront of everything.

I am a president. I am a military man, the highest-ranking member of the Haitian Armed Forces. Without any valid political reason, we could say, I was at home and I was assaulted by armed people who came to pull me out of my room in order to [rephrases] with the goal of assaulting the government.

Do people want me to hold elections and escape? I could have chosen to escape and have another president there for 2 or 3 months, instead of the 5 years stipulated in the Constitution. However, if they want to achieve something of solid value, we have to set aside this zeal to hold elections. We have to set all this aside and have honest people sit down around a table, and even with the political leaders concerned, too, in order to be able, with well-founded realism, to determine what we can do immediately and what we cannot do immediately.

[Reporter] Isn't the most necessary thing to win the confidence of the population of Haiti, general? And (?with a view to doing this), are you, for example, going to try in court all those responsible for the murders committed during the 29 November 1987 elections, who remain unpunished? Or the people responsible for the Saint Jean Bosco slaughter, for example?

[Avril] No, the problem.... [changes thought] Haiti is the only country where the chief of state is asked to judge criminals. In the other countries, there are institutions whose job it is to do that. But in Haiti people ask the chief of state to do everything. They ask the chief of state to arrest criminals, to take care of the drug problem, to do everything! Whereas I think, for I too have studied and traveled to other countries and so forth.... [changes thought] I have never heard of any chief of state being involved in this kind of thing.

[Reporter] But who is going to do it? For no one is doing it, General.

[Avril] Who is going to do it?

[Reporter] Yes.

[Avril] Is this a way of telling me to set myself up as a tribunal and judge people? No. I will not be able to do it, for I am not a judge.

[Reporter] General Avril, you have long pulled the strings of power in Port-au-Prince. It is even said that you have been a financial advisor to Jean-Claude Duvalier. Such a financial advisor is someone is a good position to tell us with how many millions Jean-Claude Duvalier took into exile (?from Haiti), and also your position on the repatriation of this money to Haiti.

[Avril] Well, first I must tell you.... [changes thought] First I must correct what you just said about my being a financial adviser of Jean-Claude Duvalier. I was never a financial adviser of Jean-Claude Duvalier. I was given responsibility for taking care of military supplies, for supplying the Haitian Armed Forces. I was not a financial advisor to Jean-Claude Duvalier. That is the first point.

Secondly, regarding the repatriation of the wealth of Jean-Claude Duvalier, I know that there is a legal suit that... [rephrases] something that has been initiated in France, but I must also tell you that these are activities that are really a very heavy charge for the Haitian government. The staff [preceding word in English] of the current Ministry of Justice is analyzing and studying everything that has been done in the past before we came to power, in order to see how we are going to continue the work of repatriating the money.

We do not want, in the last analysis, for the cure to be worse than the disease .

[Reporter] But would you personally like to see these millions, these $500 million, returned to Haiti?

[Avril] Well, I don't have.... [changes thought] I am not going to go so far as to quote figures, but I know that if I could really get hold of that money, it would be a big help to the nation, to the Haitian people.

[Reporter] General, in conclusion, a criticism often made of Haiti these days is that there is no longer any government in Haiti, what are there are interest groups rivaling one another for power and who wrench (?from one another) foreign aid money and also money from contraband. What do you answer to this criticism?

[Avril] How can anyone say that rival groups are trying to wrench foreign aid away from one another? I don't see this because, first of all, there is a very, very, very tiny amount of foreign aid. Since I came to power, I cannot speak of foreign aid. There isn't any. All right.

Now, regarding contraband, the government's authority is being regained in that if contraband products were being wrenched from one another by rival groups, well, the government came and said: Stop that! We need understanding and assistance from those who are of goodwill to help us get out of this mess. [end recording]

Manigat Calls for 'Solution'

FL1404185389 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1830 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] In a press release written by its leader Leslie F. Manigat, the Assembly of Progressive National Democrats [RDNP] declares that for the time being, as a solution aimed at getting out of the current political impasse, the RDNP has proposed that there be a referendum on the return of the RDNP, of Manigat, to power.

If the RDNP were indeed able to obtain the conditions and guarantees for such a return, for Manigat to come back to continue and finish the mandate the Constitution had given him, (?Manigat could) join together the different pieces of Haitian society now torn asunder and restore solidarity at the national level by applying a plan for national reconstruction inspired by the RDNP's "To Change Life" program. This program would be applied by a team of competent, honest men whom the RDNP would choose from diverse sectors in Haiti, and the RDNP could ensure that reform of the political institutions was carried out in a democratic way, once they had set up the political stability which is indispensable for this.

The RDNP could also come up with an emergency social and economic policy with which to respond to the most pressing needs.

However, says Manigat, despite having made this proposal, everyone discarded the idea of a compromise, and that's how the killing started in the beginning of April.

However, Manigat says that all is not lost. That man of action, Toussaint Louverture, said: Patience wins out over force. And here, today, we are once again the alternative to civil war and foreign intervention in Haiti, the opportunity that exists.

That was Leslie Manigat talking, in a long press release he wrote which is dated 7 April 1988 [as heard], in which he says that the moment has arrived in which the nation's endagered higher interests demand that all Haitians make many sacrifices.

That, then, is RDNP leader Leslie Manigat, who wrote a long press release and sent it to the press on Friday 7 April, 1989, while he was in Geneva.

Further on Manigat Reaction

FL1504000989 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1830 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Meanwhile, there has also been reaction from Leslie Manigat, the first post-Duvalier civilian president. Clarens?

[Clarens] Well, from Geneva, former President Leslie Manigat notes the following points, voices the following considerations, and makes the following statements:

We, here and now, protest any and all kinds of direct or indirect, open or covert, foreign military intervention (?that might possibly occur in) the country of Dessalines. We issue an appeal to the international community (?that is) in solidarity with the maintenance of and respect for our national independence and territorial integrity (?and) that is against any and all infringement of these basic principals of international law , Leslie Manigat writes.

The Haitian people will recognize its true friends, Manigat says, not in the sending of armed missionaries to aggravate the Haitian people's fratricidal disunity but in initiatives to help the Haitian people find a peaceful political solution to the current bloody crisis and to finally set the country on the path of development, democracy, and social justice with respect for Haiti's territorial integrity.

Leslie Manigat asks: Will foreign powers (?at last) understand this requirement of friendship? [passage omitted]

Leslie Manigat says: Thus, we today once again constitute the alternative to civil war and foreign intervention. [passage omitted]

Namphy 'Supporting' Avril

FL1404234389 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1830 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] Former Haitian President General Henri Namphy, who was ousted by the 17 September coup d'etat, has declared that he supports General Avril's regime. Namphy said this in the first public statements he has made in the Dominican Republic, 7 months after this same Gen Avril whom he is today supporting ousted him in a coup and took over the government.

In this statement, which Namphy made over Dominican television, he said he supported Gen Avril because Avril had set Haiti on the path to democracy, thanks to a great deal of help from the Haitian Armed Forces.

Namphy said that that last week's big fuss within the Haitian Army occurred because Haiti is facing a bunch of popular uprisings that are the consequence of the unsettled situation in Haiti today, and also because control in the Army is lacking.

In this same interview, Gen Namphy accused the Haitian Catholic Church of being responsible for the deaths of several dozen people during the 29 November 1987 elections. Henri Namphy said the Catholic Church failed to do its work properly, because it failed to control the faithful of the church of Saint Jean Bosco. A number of tragic events occurred there.

Gen Namphy said further that he was overthrown because he had been struggling against drug trafficking and putting a stop to the conflicts of interest going on within the Haitian Army. He called these people, the drug traffickers and the people seeking to further their personal interests, a gang of bloodthirsty individuals, because they are making the country's economic situation even worse.

Regarding Leslie Manigat, the president following the 17 January elections organized by Namphy who was overthrown a few months after taking office, Gen Namphy said that Manigat was not properly working in the interests of the nation. Namphy said that he did not know Manigat personally, but that Manigat's program of government was quite poor.

Namphy also said that the first electoral council was not capable of guaranteeing proper elections in Haiti. In Namphy's opinion, no candidate in the 1987 elections was capable of satisfying the Haitian people's demands.

At Gen Namphy's side as he made these statements were his wife Gabrielle and his daughter Melissa.

Namphy thanked President Joaquin Balaguer for allowing him to remain in the Dominican Republic as a political exile.

The Dominican Government gave Gen Namphy a temporary visa after the 17 September coups [as heard], good until he found another country willing to grant him political asylum.

This interview was filmed at Gen Namphy's own home in the Dominican Republic. However, to this day many people have never been able to find out exactly where this house is.

We remind listeners that Gen Namphy, who was forced to leave power after the 17 September coup that brought Gen Avril to power, had made many threats (?against) diverse sectors during a meeting at City Hall on 9 September 1988, 2 days before the Saint Jean Bosco massacre. Many people who have been charged with having been involved in the Saint Jean Bosco massacre were at that meeting.

We also remind listeners that throughout the month of November 1987, when murderers were killing people left and right in Haiti, Gen Namphy, who was at that time head of the government, did nothing to stop these acts or arrest the guilty parties. On the contrary, the interior

minister at the time, General Regala, chose instead to disband all the vigilance brigades that were trying to defend themselves against the murderers and arsonists.

Lastly, we remind listeners that in the statement they made following the coup, the 17 September Movement soldiers said that they had decided to overthrow Gen Namphy because of the many crimes he was committing, especially massacring people and setting fire to churches, as occurred at Saint Jean Bosco.

Further on Namphy Statements

FL1504002889 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] In an interview granted to Dominican television, Henri Namphy expressed his support for Avril, who overthrew him, and pleaded for Haiti to progress along the path of democracy with the firm and determined support of the Armed Forces. [passage omitted]

General Henri Namphy explained that he was overthrown—and I quote: Because of the struggle I was undertaking against drug trafficking, and also because of the struggles among different interest groups within the Haitian Armed Forces. Gen Namphy described the Haitian Armed Forces as leeches because of the economic burden they represent for the Haitian Government. [passage omitted]

Col Lionel Claude Released

FL1404234189 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1830 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Excerpts] A total of 457 Haitian Armed Forces [FADH] enlisted men and 46 Dessalines Barracks officers have thus far surrendered to the general headquarters of the Port-au-Prince police. These were the figures as of approximately 1400 on Wednesday, yesterday. [passage omitted]

Also, a military source told us that Colonel Lionel Claude was authorized by the Leopards to leave their camp at the beginning of this week. [passage omitted]

We remind listeners that after the attempted coup d'etat against General Prosper Avril, Col Lionel Claude, who was the deputy commander of the Leopards Corps, was in charge of the camp following the arrest and expulsion of Colonel Himmler Rebus. However, the Leopard soldiers later imprisoned Col Claude inside the Leopard camp itself, because they considered him a traitor to their cause and the reason the coup failed.

Rebel Troops Report to FADH

FL1404233789 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 1700 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Excerpts] According to information obtained from the Haitian Armed Forces [FADH] General Headquarters, 503 members of the Dessalines Barracks battalion, 457 enlisted men and 46 officers, who rebelled last week against the president of the military government, Lieutenant General Prosper Avril, have reported [to the FADH General Headquarters] during the course of Wednesday 12 April. [passage omitted] On Thursday, 13 April, some 30 more reported.

The FADH General Headquarters was also visited by certain civilians, who also came in to return to the Haitian Army weapons left scattered in the streets of Port-au-Prince during the recent clash between the Dessalines Barracks battalion and the Presidential Guard.

Radio Metropole Back on Air

FL1404233689 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1830 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Excerpts] Radio Metropole, one of the radio stations sabotaged on 6 April, today some 8 days later resumed its broadcasts on FM mono and FM stereo, with a little less power. Unfortunately, they cannot be heard far. Only listeners in Port-au-Prince will be able to hear them. Metropole doesn't know exactly how long this situation will last.
[Begin recording] [Metropole reporter Clarens] [Passage omitted] We cannot tell you when our AM broadcasts will resume, because there was much damage done to Metropole's AM transmitter. Thus, we probably won't be able to resume broadcasting on AM for another 3 or 4 weeks.
[Unidentified Soleil reporter] Have you put on FM any programs that you used to broadcast over AM before, porgrams which were not broadcast on FM?
[Clarens] Well, that is precisely what we are going to try to do: set up special programming so as to allow most of the programs that used to be on AM and not FM to be broadcast on FM, so listeners can hear them. [passage omitted]
[Reporter] Such as the news, for example? Are you going to have news?
[Clarens] Well, precisely, we began today, with a special news broadcast that is going to be broadcast over FM mono and FM stereo.
[Reporter] And what are your frequencies?
[Clarens] 99.1 FM mono and 100.1 FM stereo.
[Reporter] And how long is this situation going to last?
[Clarens] Well, I can't tell you exactly, but we think that we will be able to resume our normal broadcasts on AM in some 3-4 weeks.
[Reporter] Thank you very much, Clarens. [passage omitted] We were also told that Radio Liberte had resumed its FM broadcasts last night. [end recording]

Antilles Internationales Resumes

FL1504002189 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] Radio Antilles Internationales will be able to resume its FM broadcasts on the frequency of 93.5 mhz as of today, Friday, 14 April. They were scheduled to go on the air at noon but have not yet gone on the air.

However, we know that Radio Antilles Internationales will be able to operate on FM as of today, Friday. Welcome back, Radio Antilles.

Trade Unions Want Aid for Victims

FL1404234789 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1830 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Excerpts] There is word from the Autonomous Organization of Haitian Workers affiliated with the Latin American Central Organization of Workers, CATH-/CLAT. [passage omitted] They say that they too were not spared in this clash [between members of the Armed Forces].

(Liliane Lalois), a valiant female member of the executive committee of the union at (Dudley Sports), was killed by a grenade while inside her home. Also, a member of that same union, Marie-Lourdes Louis suffered serious damage to the pelvic area caused by a bullet which entered her body from behind and exited (?out the front). She is in the hospital, suffering, without knowing what might happen to her in the future.

Also, on Friday 7 April 1989 CATH/CLAT headquarters was hit by rounds of automatic weapons fired by (?a few people with evil intentions.)

After all the difficulties with which the country and the working class have been stricken physically, economically, and with regard to morale, CATH/CLAT is sorry to see how lightly the authorities take the situation of total crisis that is turning Haitian society upside down.

CATH/CLAT asks the authorities what they are planning to do about the families of these people who became victims inside their homes during these (?horrendous clashes). [passage omitted]

UPD Calls for Unity

FL1404234689 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1830 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] In a note of reaction, the Union of Democratic Patriots [UPD] asks the Haitian people of the country's nine geographical departments and overseas to remain mobilized, because they must not lose this battle they are waging to put an end to the Duvalierist regime so that democracy can be established in the country.

After the failure of the soldiers of the 17 September Movement, these recent events, which are not yet over, show that if things are really to change in the direction that the Haitian people want them to, all patriots both civilian and military must join together into a single bloc, in order to be stronger. For this reason, UPD sounds the call to assembly, and asks for all patriots working for real change, be they civilians or military men, to form a single chain of solidarity in order to prevent this military dictatorship from getting a foothold in Haiti.

This press release is signed by UPD president Rockefeller Guerre.

FADH Issues Communique

FL1504001689 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Excerpts] In connection with security, a communique from the General Headquarters of the Haitian Armed Forces [FADH] announces that following the recent events, weapons and ammunition have been abandoned in the streets and in certain houses in Port-au-Prince. Consequently, the FADH high command invites Haitian families to collaborate with the Armed Forces to recover these weapons, which can constitute a danger to the population.

Furthermore, the FADH high command urges all citizens to be prudent and to inform the FADH as quickly as possible—at the following numbers: 2-1144, 2-1145, 2-1146, 3-1017, 3-1118, 3-1117, and 7-0019—should weapons have been abandoned on their premises. [passage omitted]

Also, although the Dessalines Barracks problem has been partially solved, with a number of Dessalines soldiers reporting to FADH General Headquarters, things are still uncertain regarding the Leopards camp, which was at the root of this rebellion against General Prosper Avril. Nevertheless, official government sources affirm that the Leopards Battalion is under military control.

The negotiations that began between the soldiers of this corps, who are demanding guarantees before surrendering, and the Army high command have not yet resulted in anything official.

Soldiers Turn Weapons In

FL1504001389 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] Close to 500 Dessalines Barracks enlisted men and officers have so far, up to the present, turned their weapons in to the Haitian Armed Forces General Headquarters, according to the figures reported yesterday by RTNH.

Demonstration Planned

FL1504003389 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] The Liaison Committee of the Democratic Forces asks all its members and sympathizers throughout Haiti to support, employing all means at their disposal, the renewal the government (?has undertaken). The liaison presents its condolences to the relatives of victims and asks all its members to volunteer to help the Haitian Red Cross and the hospitals with the wounded.

The liaison makes an appeal to all the nation's forces—forces which over these past few months failed to understand the danger, which was camouflaged, and involuntarily supported a number of people bold in their undertakings against the nation, the fatherland, and democracy.

The Liaison Committee says: The moment is extremely serious. This is not the time to self-destruct. This is not the time for the progressive forces to destroy one another. They must consolidate this first victory over the antinational forces. The war has not been won, and it is extremely difficult to make macoutes lose heart. We are now at a historic crossroads, where compromise between the forces of change and the people who want to return to the old system is no longer possible.

The Liaison Committee says: It is the government's duty to shunt aside the reactionary forces that want to continue the same old practices, to put them in a position where they can no longer do any damage.

The Liaison Committee invites democrats and the popular forces to unite around the ideals and acquisitions of 7 February 1986, so that tomorrow will be better.

The Liaison Committee also invites the Haitian people, which avidly desires change in Haiti, to a symbolic demonstration against macoutes and drug traffickers on Wednesday, 19 April, at 1000. This demonstration, says the Liaison Committee, will begin in front of Perpetuel Secours Church, go down Dr Aubry, Saint Martin, Sans Fil, and Lamarre Streets, pass in front of the National Palace and Place de la Liberte, and end in front of the building that houses Radio Soleil.

Guardsmen Buried With Honors

FL1504145689 Bridgetown CANA in English
1332 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] Port-au-Prince, Haiti, April 15, CANA-REUTER—Five Haitian presidential guarsdsmen killed while quelling a revolt against President Prosper Avril were buried on Friday with military honours. The ceremony came after more than a week of upheaval that included an abortive coup against General Avril on April 2 and revolts at two Army barracks.

I make no separation, I feel equally sad for them all, Avril said at the funeral when asked by reporters to which battalion the dead soldiers belonged. But during Friday's ceremonies only the five presidential guardsmen were buried with military honours. A member of the rebel Dessalines Barracks was buried without fanfare.

The government has said six soldiers and one civilian were killed in fighting on April 8 when presidential troops loyal to Avril put down a mutiny at the Dessalines Barracks in Port-au-Prince. The Army said a seventh soldier was killed the day after the attack when a grenade accidentally exploded in his hands.

Catholic Radio Soleil reported after the fighting that 30 soldiers and four civilians had been killed.

In a move apparently to create an image of military unity, the coffins of the presidential guardsmen were carried by members of the Leopards battalion, which was also involved in the mutiny. Members of the Dessalines and Leopards Barracks charged Avril with favouring the Presidential Guard and trying to impose a dictatorship despite his promises to bring democracy to Haiti.

Avril came to power last September in a military coup led by members of the Presidential Guard.

Curfew Suspended in Port-au-Prince

PA1604001589 Madrid EFE in Spanish
2321 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 15 Apr (EFE)—The Haitian military regime headed by General Prosper Avril today suspended the curfew that has been in effect in that Caribbean country ever since an abortive coup was staged earlier in the month but announced that the state of emergency remains in effect.

Apparently about 40 people were killed and over 100 wounded in fighting between military forces loyal to President Avril and members of the Jean-Jacques Dessalines Battalion.

The announcement of the curfew suspension was made last night over RTNH, the state television station, at the end of its "Pan American Day" program.

Yesterday Avril attended the funeral of six soldiers loyal to his government who were killed in clashes with the Dessalines Battalion.

During the religious ceremony at the Sacred Heart Church in the affluent Turgeau neighborhood, Avril was accompanied by members of the Presidential Guard and the Haitian Armed Forces general staff. Officers and men of the various Army corps were also present at the mass.

The religious ceremony was also attended by lower-ranking soldiers of the Leopards Battalion, another Army unit opposed to the present Haitian president. The unit's leader, Major Jean Jonas, is garrisoned [acuartelado] in his camp at Freres, some 10 km from Port-au-Prince.

Although the government has reported only six killed among its forces, Radio Soleil, the Haitian Catholic Church's radio station, has said that there were more casualties among the forces loyal to the Haitian president.

Dominican Unions Refuse To Protect Haitians

FL1404234989 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1830 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Excerpts] Dominican unions cannot defend Haitian cane cutters in the Dominican Republic, said two leaders of the National Confederation of Dominican Workers in Caracas, Venezuela, on Wednesday 12 April. The two union representatives who were participating in the 12th congress of labor organizations of different American countries said that because there are not many big unions in the Dominican Republic, and especially because the Haitian laborers work on the basis of a contract signed by the two governments, it is almost impossible for them as a union to come to the aid of the Haitians.

The Dominican unionists said there are a few labor federations that are trying to defend the Haitian laborers, but often in the past they have not been able, and still are not able, to do anything for the Haitians because the Dominican Government does not want to give the Haitians residency.

The unionists continued: The work of cutting cane is so tough that the Haitians go once and refuse to return. New Haitians come for every cane harvest and this gives us a lot of trouble in helping them organize themselves.

The unionists said that the International Labor Organization has already sent several commissions to take a look at the situation of the Haitian cane cutters in the Dominican Republic. However, each time the final reports that were issued, they have been written solely on the basis of the information the commissions obtain from the Dominican Government. The unionists said that if the International Labor Organization were to take the time to conduct a proper investigation into the situation of the laborers, the investigation would cause a big scandal at the international level.

The Dominican unionists said, in conclusion: We have denounced the terrible situation and living conditions of the Haitian workers many many times. We were even following the investigation that was being conducted into the death of 45 Haitians who died in a big accident at the end of January in Santo Domingo. We even demanded an improvement in their living conditions and in the wages they are paid. However, we must admit that we have no way of doing more. [passage omitted]

We remind listeners that the last official contract signed between Haiti and the Dominican Republic was signed on 30 October 1982, and was for two harvests—1983 and 1984. Since then, there has never officially been a contract for laborers signed. However, we point out that despite the fact that there was no official contract, at the end of 1985 certain high-ranking officials were hurriedly recruiting laborers while the political incidents that were to lead to the overthrow of Duvalier were going on and things were heating up.

After 7 February 1986, the provisional National Government Council hastened to return to the Dominican Government the money the Dominican Government had paid in advance to purchase Haitians, without ever saying who it was that had taken that money. Since then, there has never been any official contract signed, but clandestine recruiting continues to this day.

Remaining Members of Electoral Council Sworn In

FL1404233989 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 1700 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Excerpt] In the office of the Department of the Public Prosecutor of the Court of Cassation at the law courts this morning, and in the presence of Court President Gilbert Austin, Vice President Gabriel H. Volcy, representative of the Department of the Public Prosecutor Jean D. Kalim, deputy representative of the Department of the Public Prosecutor Joseph Nerette, and other members of the court, the four latecomers to the Permanent Electoral Council—that is, Max Lelio Joseph for the union sector, Jean Gerard Pierre for the human rights organizations, Pauris Jean-Baptiste for the Haitian Journalists Association, and Jacques Jovin for the Protestant Churches—were sworn in. [passage omitted]

St Lucia

Parliament Approves Government's Spending Plan

FL1404183489 Bridgetown CANA in English 1707 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, April 14, CANA—The St Lucia House of Assembly on Thursday approved the government's 1989/90 estimates of expenditure, after a short debate marred by an opposition protest.

Only one member of parliament, opposition spokesman for health, Evans Caulderon, had spoken on the 370.4 million dollar package when members of the opposition St Lucia Labour Party left the chamber. The walk-out came amidst a dispute as to whether the government had not suffered a defeat in Parliament.

Prime Minister John Compton said the opposition had been confused about parliamentary procedure. He said that the opposition threw away four opportunities to debate the estimates. "They instead conducted themselves in a manner which I have not seen before in my 35 years in parliament", he said.

After short contributions from three government parliamentarians the appropriation bill was taken through all its stages and passed.

St Vincent and the Grenadines

Nation 'Gears' for General Elections

FL1404222289 Bridgetown CANA in English 2055 GMT 14 Apr 89

[By Michael Findlay]

[Text] Kingston, St Vincent, April 14, CANA—Government's handling of the economy and the opposition's access to the state media are major issues as St Vincent and the Grenadines gears for a general election.

Critics say the New Democratic Party (NDP), which took power in a July 1984 general election, has made it more difficult for political opponents to get the state media, including the national broadcasting corportation radio, to air their views. They also complain that Prime Minister James Mitchell gives more priority to balancing the budget than improving social services.

However, Mitchell has gained some support through a major land reform project making plots available to small farmers and through a multi-million dollar programme to improve roads and the water service throughout the islands. He has also won some praise for law reforms to end discrimination against women, to counter drug trafficking, and to make it easier for Vincentians to get titles to land left by their families.

Mitchell, an agronomist born in the Grenadines, has been pushing for a diversification of agriculture, with some emphasis on tourism. One of the big agricultural projects is the subdivision of the 3,000-acre Orange Hill estate, 24 miles northeast of Kingston, the St Vincent capital. At least 85 small farmers have received plots on a leasehold basis.

Construction of a multi-million dollar fisheries project on the Kingston waterfront started last year, one aim being to put fishing on a better footing. The government is also building an airport in the southern end of the island of Bequia.

The main opposition to Mitchell is the Labour Party, which now holds three seats in parliament to the NDP's 10. The Labour Party had won four seats in the 1984 poll, but after ex-Prime Minister Milton Cato pulled out of politics the NDP won his east St George seat in a February 1985 by-election.

The Labour Party is headed by former Agriculture Minister Vincent Beache.

This time, 15 parliamentary seats are at stake, the government has split one constituency into two and added another. The NDP has anounced 14 candidates for the election, but its opponenets appear to be playing a waiting game.

Opposition parties here include the United People's Movement of Dr Adrian Saunders, a lawyer, and the Movement for National Unity of Dr Ralph Gonsalves, also a lawyer. Leaders describe both parties as socialist. The third group is the conservative National Reform Party of musician Joel Miguuel, formed last year.

General Elections Announced

FL1504160289 Bridgetown CANA in English 1540 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] Kingston, St Vincent, April 15, CANA—General elections in St Vincent and the Grenadines will be held on May 16, Prime Minister James Mitchell has said. Nomination day will be April 28.

Mitchell made the announcements at a rally of his New Democratic Party (NDP) at Victoria Park in the capital on Friday night. Mitchell spoke before a big crowd, in an atmosphere reminiscent of the victory celebrations which followed the NDP's win in the last general elections here in 1984. The address was carried live on radio and television.

On Friday, parliament was prorogued, paving the way for the elections, the third since St Vincent and the Grenadines gained its independence from Britain in 1979.

NDP supporters cheered themselves hoarse as Mitchell presented 12 of the candidates, who along with himself will contest the elections, and announced the names of two others who were not present Friday night.

The full slate includes seven newcomers, but two members of Mitchell's current cabinet—Trade, Industry and Agriculture Minister Marcus de Freitas and Health Minister David Jack—told them they were standing down.

Jack, who is 70, said that because of his age, it was becoming increasingly more difficult for him to continue actively in politics, but noted that there were other areas of national development in which he would be involved.

The 40-year-old de Freitas revealed that he will be returning to his family business—Eastern Caribbean Agencies—and to a "higher calling" in the religious field.

Both Jack and de Freitas won their seats in North Windward and West St George for the first time in the 1984 elections.

Mitchell also announced last night that he will contest the Northern Grenadines constituency, one of two new seats created following a constitutional amendment earlier this year increasing the number of constituencies from 13 to 15.

Senator Mary Hutchinson, a business woman from Union Island, about 36 miles south of St Vincent, will contest the Southern Grenadines seat. She was one of only two candidates absent from Friday's rally and will be presented to her constituency at a later date.

Another newcomer, Bernard Wyllie, a former public health officer is the NDP's candidate for the Marriaqua constituency seat, currently held by Ken Browne of the opposition St Vincent Labour Party (SULP) of opposition leader Vincent Beache. Wyllie was also absent from the rally but Mitchell said he will be presented to the people of Marriaqua this Sunday.

The other newcomers are former secondary school headteacher, Alpian Allen (North Leeward constituency), Senator Carlyle Dougan, a lawyer (East Kingstown), retired headteacher and co-ordinator of womens affairs, Yvonne Francis Gibson (West St George), former St Vincent and the Grenadines ambassador to the United Nations, Jonathan Peters (North Central Windward), and former primary school teacher, Monty Roberts (North Windward). The other seven candidates are all current members of Prime Minister Mitchell's cabinet.

Attorney General Parnel Campbell, who won the East Kingstown seat in the February 1985 by-election following the sudden death of then Minister of Health Eddie Griffith, will this time contest the new Central Kingstown seat.

The other six candidates will contest the seats they now hold. They are—junior Minister in the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Agriculture, Herbie Young (Central Leeward), Minister of Housing, Labour, Community Development and Sports Jerry Scott (South Leeward), Minister of Education John Horne (West Kingstown), junior minister in the Ministry of Communications and Works, Louis Jones (East St George), Minister of Tourism and Women's Affairs Burton Williams (South Windward), and Minister of Communications and Works Allan Cruickshank (South Central Windward).

Salinas: IMF Agreement Endorses Economic Plan

PA1404195689 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Report by Raul Rodriguez on speech by President Salinas de Gortari at the Construction Industry Congress in Guadalajara; date not given—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] President Carlos Salinas de Gortari said that the IMF agreement is appropriate for a sovereign state, acknowledges the soundness of our economic program, does not entail new economic adjustments, gives us certainty over the medium term, and will facilitate negotiations with international private banks.

[Salinas] "Today a solution is in sight. No doubt this agreement marks the beginning of our finding an in-depth solution to a painful problem."

In his address at the Construction Industry Congress in Guadalajara, he said that the agreement with the IMF—which he referred to as a bank of banks—demonstrates an acknowledgment that Mexico is morally correct, which Mexico has been asserting at international forums.

[Salinas] "The agreement we signed offers in-depth changes. It acknowledges Mexico's economic program and the Pact for Economic Stablization and Growth. The agreement is based on our economic program, and not the other way around."

In this regard, the president explained that past agreements had given priority attention to the foreign exchange and balance of payment problems, and that everything had been adjusted to that approach. Today there is recognition that growth—even beyond stated goals—is a priority for Mexico.

[Salinas] "There is strong recognition that solving the problem of economic stagnation and excessive indebtedness requires a reduction in the foreign debt and its service payments. The agreement promises IMF resources to buy back the foreign debt at a discount rate."

We are facing a very important breakthrough, thanks to internal unity and the huge sacrifices and solidarity of all Mexicans. Salinas, for that reason, asked everybody to persevere with discipline in their efforts.

[Salinas] "Therefore, we are halfway there. We still have several months to go. However, we are on the right path, and there is no turning back."

Salinas' speech was firm and optimistic, objective yet not overconfident of victory, and a vibrant appeal to maintain unity within the framework of the agreement until victory is achieved.

Country To Submit 3-Option Debt Package

FL1404201289 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1709 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] New York, 14 Apr (NOTIMEX)—Mexican financial sources told NOTIMEX today that the Mexican Government will submit three options for the solution of the debt crisis.

The menu includes a proposal to exchange old debts (which are priced at a discount in the secondary market) for a new debt with real market interest rates.

The other offer consists of the exchange of the old debt for new bonds with a lower interest rate.

The third point of the menu would be applied on the basis of zero coupon bonds for 4 years to be settled in 30 years.

In the first two parts of the options menu, the payment of the principal and a year of interests would be guaranteed. According to the sources, the menu package would represent savings of $29,000 million in real terms.

The sources noted that we are better off today than 3 months ago because industrialized countries were not talking about reducing the debt then. They added: We are better today because the governments of industrialized countries agree that what Mexico is proposing is fair.

Mexico's negotiations with its banks advisors committee will begin here next Wednesday with Jose Angel Gurria, Mexican under secretary of finance, in attendance.

Mexico's foreign debt, the second largest of the developing world, amounts to $107 billion.

Soviet Ambassador Announces New Economic Accord

PA1504163089 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 9 Apr 89 p 3

[Report by Gustavo Cadena M.]

[Text] Jalapa, Mexico, 8 Apr—Soviet Ambassador Rostislav Sergeyev announced here last night that his country and Mexico will sign an economic and technological cooperation agreement that is intended to strengthen their relations, which are currently "excellent."

The Soviet diplomat attended the world premiere of the joint Mexican-Soviet movie "The Hope."

Sergeyev remarked that various exchange programs between Mexico and the Soviet Union "are going very well and will become even closer through the signing of the agreement."

He said that Gorbachev's visit to Cuba served to strengthen the Friendship and Cooperation Treaty with that Caribbean country.

Regarding perestroyka, he stressed that each country has its own ideas about development, and the question is not whether or not someone will accept what is done in one country or the other, as might be thought that Cuba would do.

On another subject, he pointed out that the USSR is managing its nuclear plants much more carefully after the Chernobyl accident, but is moving ahead with its nuclear energy program because it currently has no other alternatives and finds itself forced to use atomic power.

Envoy to Japan on Debt Refinancing, Investments
PA1404190189 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 8 Apr 89 p 15

[Text] Mexican Ambassador to Japan Mario Moya Palencia said yesterday that President Carlos Salinas de Gortari has instructed him to support the Treasury Secretariat's efforts to renegotiate Mexico's foreign debt with Japan within the terms of the Brady plan.

The Mexican diplomat added that Japanese officials and businessmen are willing to increase their investments in Mexico, regardless of the outcome of Mexico's attempt to refinance its foreign debt.

Referring to the statement released by the Bank of Tokyo that the future availability of Japanese capital in Mexico would be contingent on the results of the debt renegotiation effort, Moya Palencia said: "That is the bank's opinion. Several Japanese businessmen have told me that they are willing to increase their investments in Mexico, regardless of the outcome of the debt renegotiation." Moya Palencia, who traveled to Tokyo yesterday, said that Mexico regards Japan as a key country in the so-called Pacific Basin. Consequently, he added, his main goal will be to open a new phase "of very broad relations between the two nations, hoping that these relations will not be restricted to the very important economic area, but will also include other aspects vital to cooperation within the Pacific Basin and which are essential to us."

Editorial Views Baja California Elections
PA1504160389 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 6 Apr 89 p 3

[Editorial: "The Left; Confused in Baja California"]

[Text] The 2 July elections in Baja California are a true political test for Mexican democracy. This is the first state election that the administration will face and, in addition, it will be in an area that can be defined as a true national political laboratory.

The Baja California elections will greatly depend on the concerted effort policy promoted by President Carlos Salinas de Gortari. It will be difficult to go back to traditional methods in Baja California and much less to think of a PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] landslide victory. Baja California is not only pluralistic because of its shape but because of its ideology. On 6 July, [opposition presidential candidate Cuauhtemoc] Cardenas won the presidential elections there, and Ensenada, one of the most important municipalities, has been in opposition hands for the last two administrations.

For this reason, the Baja California election is not only a challenge for the credibiity of the political system but, above all, for the party system. In this regard, one can see significant differences among the various national forces. While PRI and PAN [National Action Party] have begun their campaigns with the nomination of Margarita Ortega Villa and Ernesto Ruffo Appel, respectively, there is still confusion among Cardenas' followers. The five parties that make up the FDN [National Democratic Front] met for 5 hours yesterday just to announce that the FDN does not have an official candidate.

While the PPS [Popular Socialist Party] insists on Sergio Quiroz Miranda for its candidate, the PARM [Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution] threatens to have its own candidates and the now excluded PFCRN [Cardenist Front for National Reconstruction Party] is still in doubt about its final decision. Cuauhtemoc Cardenas announced the candidacy of Marta Maldonado, supported by certain leaders of the former PMS [Mexican Socialist Party]. The confusion has forced them to hold a primary election among the FDN parties. The PFCRN will be excluded from this election, but this does not guarantee that there will be a single candidate in the end.

The most probable candidate among the Cardenists is still Marta Maldonado, who was not very communicative at her first and only news conference so far. Perhaps her silence is due to the intense negotiations that her nomination has produced among FDN forces in the search for a common candidate. The fact is that the opinion of the PRD [Party of the Democratic Revolution] rank and file was not sought for nominating Maldonado. In acting this way, the Cardenists have committed one of the undemocratic vices they claim to oppose. Not even high echelon FDN members were consulted. Marta Maldonado is the daughter of former governor Braulio Maldonado. She is a veteran militant of the Marxist left. In the early 1970's, she was a MAR [Revolutionary Action Movement] militant and until last year she was part of the administration of Xicontencatl Leyva Mortera. She could be a uniting force for the left.

The undefined position of the Cardenists is a manifestation of an old leftist illness: the struggle for power among the groups that compose the left. Many believe Marta Maldonado's position is closer to that of the former PMS members than to that of the other FDN parties and of Cardenas himself. A strong and united left is important for the consolidation of the political party system in Mexico, but as long as internal juggling for power continues, the left will continue to face a Sisyphean task.

El Salvador

Bomb Explodes at Vice President-Elect's Home

PA1404150289 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 1448 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] San Salvador, 14 Apr (REUTER)—President-elect Alfredo Cristiani has reported that persons presumed to be leftist guerrillas today threw a bomb at the home of Vice President-elect Francisco Merino, injuring a child and causing considerable damage.

The attack on Merino's home, located in a luxurious San Salvador residential neighborhood, took place at 0530 (1130 GMT).

Merino, elected with Cristiani on the Nationalist Republican Alliance ticket at the 19 March elections, is in the United States with his wife.

However, his four children and three of their friends were in the house, Cristiani added. One of the children was injured.

Cristiani Blames FMLN

PA1404155289 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1501 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] San Salvador, 14 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—The police have reported that persons presumed to be guerrillas, traveling in several vehicles, this morning threw explosives at the home of Salvadoran Vice President-elect Francisco Merino, injuring a woman and causing considerable property damage.

President-elect Alfredo Cristiani, of the rightist Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA), has condemned the attack, which he attributed to Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front guerrillas.

Cristiani said: "These actions show that the guerrillas, far from seeking a peaceful solution and far from desiring peace, seek only to continue terrorizing people and to carry out their senseless attacks. Under such circumstances, very little can be done to bring peace to the country."

The president-elect made a trip early this morning to Merino's home in Maquilishuat, an upper-class residential neighborhood in northwestern San Salvador. Cristiani said that a woman was injured when a bomb went off in one of the rooms. The attackers fired at the guards posted at the residence and then threw the explosives.

Neither Merino, who won the vice presidency by an absolute majority in the 19 March elections, nor any of his relatives were at home at the time of the attack. According to ARENA sources, Merino and his wife Maria Antonieta will arrive from the United States this afternoon. Merino accompanied Cristiani to the United States last week to meet with U.S. President George Bush and other U.S. government officials and political leaders.

A National Police spokesman said that experts defused one of the three bombs, which was composed of five sticks of TNT, hurled by the presumed guerrillas. The police report that a patrol car chased the attackers who, nevertheless, managed to escape through avenues leading to northern San Salvador.

So far no rebel organization has claimed responsibility for the attack; the National Police, however, blame the guerrillas. Last Monday, guerrillas threw bombs at the home of Emma Diaz, the mother-in-law of Legislative Assembly Vice President Sigifredo Ochoa Perez, also an ARENA leader.

FMLN Denies Involvement

PA1404224289 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] urban commandos have denied reports they participated in an attack on Vice President-elect Francisco Merino's home.

At 0530 this morning, unidentified individuals placed three explosive devices at the main entrance of Merino's home in the Machiliguas neighborhood. Two of the devices exploded.

Reports indicate that the perpetrators, who arrived in a vehicle, also fired at the guards protecting Merino's residence. Early reports pointed to urban commandos as the presumed perpetrators, but a spokesman for the Modesto Ramirez Central Front, in a telephone call, denied the report.

[Begin recording of unidentified FMLN spokesman] On this occasion, the FMLN must explain that our forces did not participate in the attack in question. The FMLN warns that the Armed Forces are taking advantage of the situation to create confusion and promote true state terrorism.

The FMLN condemns the [word indistinct] against our people and warns that these actions will not be allowed to take place without the appropriate response. The FMLN claims responsibility for actions in which it is directly involved. In this case, we were not directly involved. The FMLN warns that the Armed Forces are taking advantage of this situation to perpetrate attacks on individuals and institutions, which can be easily attributed to the FMLN. [end recording]

The FMLN described statements made by President-elect Alfredo Cristiani as irresponsible. The president-elect immediately condemned the attack and attributed it to the urban commandos. As a result of the attack, a 15-year-old girl was wounded and considerable damage was reported. Merino is currently out of the country.

Cristiani Interview on Return From U.S. Visit

PA1504011389 San Salvador TCS Television in Spanish 1205 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Interview with President-elect Alfredo Cristiani on his return from the United States by unidentified reporters; live or recorded—no place given]

[Text] [Reporter] You mentioned the attack on the residence of [Vice President-elect Francisco] Merino. We would like you to give us some details on this.

[Cristiani] At approximately 0530 this morning, three explosives were hurled at his residence from an empty lot. The explosives caused extensive damage to the residence. There was rifle fire also, but the rifle fire was only to distract security personnel in the area.

The attackers acted like animals. Mr Merino is still in the United States with his wife. He will be returning this afternoon. Their four children and three of the children's friends were at the residence when the attack took place. The children could have been killed. Those who carried out this attack are people who for a long time have been talking about human rights and about indiscriminate bombings. This attack endangered civilians. Thank goodness only one of the children was wounded. One of the girls who was visiting the home was hit by some shrapnel but the wound is not serious. Right now we are getting a doctor to examine the children to see if their hearing has been damaged because two of the devices exploded in the bedroom the children were in.

I believe this is another indication that the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front], far from seeking peace and wanting peace for the Salvadoran people, wants to continue its terrorism, its killings—its irrational killings. I believe that little can be achieved in the search for peace through dialogue because these people are not sincere when they claim that they want to resolve the problem.

The Salvadoran people are tired of violence. They stated their opinion on 19 March. The FMLN should think carefully because the people have flatly rejected violence and the FMLN. I do not believe that the members of our party will be frightened into abandoning the struggle for the consolidation of democracy, which is something the people want.

I believe that those who want to make the FMLN look like martyrs and like persons who work for the good of the people, should know the truth: They are nothing but savages who lack human qualities and who are indiscriminately killing and wounding civilians who have nothing to do with the conflict.

I—and the party, I am sure—condemn this kind of action, and not only because it was carried out against Mr Merino. We have seen in recent days how they do not fight ideas with ideas; how they have been killing and wounding employees of the ANALISIS magazine just because they do not agree with the magazine's position. Peace cannot be achieved if these people do not change their attitude. I believe that even the Salvadoran guerrillas—who are Salvadorans; who are common people who perhaps have relatives trying to live normal lives—should understand that these attacks are nothing but the result of the uncontrolled ambition of guerrilla commanders who want to seize power to subdue the people. The Salvadoran guerrillas need to understand that they should not follow and obey these commanders, because this is not a war, or a revolution. This is just indiscriminate terrorism.

[Reporter] Is the United States aware of these FMLN activities, meaning these purely terrorist activities? What is its opinion of this in view of the fact that groups that support the FMLN are carrying out a massive propaganda campaign, and it sometimes seems that they have successfully countered the propaganda... [corrects herself] publicity about the FMLN terrorist actions in our country?

[Cristiani] I believe they have a very well-structured organization in the United States and in other countries. I dare say that the FMLN has more personnel at the international level and more resources than all the Salvadoran Diplomatic Corps put together. Nevertheless, they are a minority. They are always trying to exaggerate their support, which consists only of small groups.

For example, during our trip to the United States, we realized that the well-known demonstrations for the FMLN are staged by 10 or 15 people—mostly paid professional agitators who have no ideology. They use an organization called [name indistinct]—organized by Shafik Handal's brother, Farid Handal, in the United States—to deceive those who are not aware of the situation. They manage to confuse some of the U.S. people with the support of some groups and religious organizations, so they are able to get some kind of support.

The truth is that FMLN support has deteriorated considerably because they have clearly proved that they do not want peace. They stick to their militarist attitude, perhaps because it is second nature to them, and their great ambition to attain power by force.

[Reporter] Is the U.S. Government aware of this?

[Cristiani] I believe so. I believe that the U.S. Congress and Senate are also becoming more and more aware of this.

[Reporter] As for your U.S. visit, generally speaking, how were you received by the U.S. Government, specifically by the secretary of state and, of course, by President Bush and Vice President Quayle?

[Cristiani] I received a very positive reaction, because I believe the objectives and platform we outlined for U.S. officials reflect our national reality. We said we must

continue to struggle to achieve peace in El Salvador. We said that, within a realistic framework, we are willing to find a political solution to the conflict.

We are absolutely convinced that ending the war will not mean simply stopping bullets from flying and bombs from exploding. We must also make a tremendous effort to reverse the socioeconomic situation in our country. We must develop an economic model that will improve the standard of living of a majority of Salvadorans. We said our government respects human rights, although it is involved in a conflict during which it is very difficult to end violence, because violence leads to more violence. Nevertheless, we must continue our efforts to stop abuses leading to human rights violations.

I repeat, we must achieve peace; to achieve it, national unity is essential. In saying this, we dispelled a lot of disinformation, because there was a wrong impression. There have been reports in the United States that ARENA will return land to its previous owners, but we clearly said this is untrue. We also clarified other misconceptions.

We not only had the opportunity to meet with the administration—that is, President Bush and his entire cabinet, including the secretaries of state, defense, housing and urban development, with whom we held talks—but we also met with members of the House and the Senate, which are key players in U.S. policy. We asked the latter to maintain the same levels of aid for El Salvador. They are willing to cooperate with our government because it reflects the people's will.

[Reporter] It was said you were seeking an increase in aid, especially for social programs. Did you obtain that aid, and when will it come?

[Cristiani] We did make that request. We believe it is necessary to meet certain social needs in El Salvador. The economy we will inherit has deteriorated, and the government's funds are running low. I hope the government will not—and we have already heard some rumors about this—commit the abuses of certain mayors, who looted their treasuries and left the finances of mayoral offices in poor shape. We hope this will not happen in the central government, because we have few resources.

We must satisfy social needs, and that is why we requested aid. We also visited international financial institutions. We held very constructive talks. I believe we can also implement social programs together with these organizations. The World Bank, to the extent it could, has funded social programs; not only stabilization and economic development programs, but also social programs. The Inter-American Development Bank [IDB] complained on many occasions in the past that the government received IDB funds but was not able to use these funds because of the inefficiency of the current administration. We believe there is a possibility of more IDB funds.

Realistically speaking, I believe that the issue of increased U.S. aid for El Salvador is a very difficult one, because the United States is facing a domestic problem—that is, its own fiscal deficit. It is very difficult to increase aid levels, but many of the people we spoke with in the United States have promised to continue their support to ensure that the same levels of aid will continue.

If this comes true, I believe that in the medium term, a good economic program might be able to decrease the need to channel these funds to paying our creditors and to offsetting the balance of payments deficit. We might be able to use some of this aid for social programs.

[Reporter] Speaking about a political solution to the conflict, earlier I heard you state some of your future government's plans regarding this issue on the Topics and Debates program. You caught my attention when you said the FMLN is closing the door to a peaceful solution, leaving room only for a military solution. Why do you believe the FMLN is closing the door to a peaceful solution, and what will happen?

[Cristiani] This was my answer to questions regarding the FMLN proposal that was made 1 day before I traveled to Washington. The proposal was in English, not Spanish. I have not received an official document, only the copy distributed to the media. Nevertheless, when I compared this new proposal with the result of the talks in Mexico, I could see that the FMLN had only created stumbling blocks and problems that would prevent us from continuing the process that began in February. This, added to the fact that high-ranking guerrilla leaders—or terrorist criminals such as Ana Guadalupe Martinez—have threatened to continue terrorist attacks and destruction, means that the FMLN will make a proposal so the government can reject it. Then they can resort to terrorism, which, in fact, is what they have been doing, as they did this morning at Francisco Merino's home.

This is why I say it seems that the FMLN no longer wants to find a political solution to the conflict and that it is leaving room only for a military solution. Nevertheless, I added that the FMLN's proposal should not be thrown in a wastebasket; it should not be a purely political effort that will be forgotten. Unless the FMLN reconsiders and accepts the fact that the guerrillas do not have popular support and that they are nothing but terrorist criminals who are murdering totally innocent people who have nothing to do with the conflict, and unless they seek what the Salvadorans really want—peace in democracy and liberty—they will be leaving us no alternative but to resort to a military solution. That is why I said it seems the FMLN is closing the door to a political solution.

[Reporter] Regarding the core of the proposal—the creation of a transitional government and general elections after 6 months—while you were in Washington many analysts described the proposal as very difficult even to negotiate. Nevertheless, you as a politician know there

was a purpose behind the proposal. It was written in English, and it coincided with your trip to Washington. How did the FMLN proposal affect your visit?

[Cristiani] I would say the FMLN miscalculated the impact the proposal would have on my visit. Everyone knows that all the international observers absolutely agreed that the 19 March elections were free, honest, and representative and that despite the threats of violence and lack of transportation, the Salvadorans went out to vote. I believe the proposal was a mistake, because instead of creating the flexibility the FMLN has been seeking in the international community, it was considered a joke. Some media said the proposal was totally ridiculous and unrealistic; they said it was nothing but a tactical proposal by the FMLN, which has already threatened violence. The proposal, therefore, did not have the impact the FMLN expected. It did not draw attention away from the visit or the issues that would be discussed, and the FMLN did not dominate the agenda with its proposal. The proposal, I repeat, only caused laughter in Washington, and the FMLN has probably made a laughingstock of itself. Even the press did not pay much attention to the proposal.

[Reporter] Another issue that was discussed during your trip to Washington—apparently this was not included in the official agenda—was the kidnappers who were temporarily released by a judge. How did this affect your visit?

[Cristiani] In no way. In fact, I believe the issue of the kidnappers' release helped prove that—even though we have had problems in different areas, including the administration of justice—Salvadorans are trying to achieve the goals that everyone wants, such as a proper administration of justice, respect for human rights, and an even more consolidated democracy. The latest events helped prove that El Salvador has made some progress in every sector, including putting a stop to the illegal actions of some people who are trying to discredit the country. Therefore, the events did not affect the visit. In fact, I believe they helped me prove that there is some improvement in our situation and that the Salvadorans are willing to continue trying to achieve these basic goals so our democracy becomes stronger and more consolidated.

[Reporter] Reports on your visit and statements in Washington...[changes thought] The international news media has referred to the death squads on many occasions. The latest reports again referred to the topic. According to these reports, you said in Washington that you would not develop any new plan to control the death squads. The reports implied a certain lack of concern about this topic. What is your real position on the issue?

[Cristiani] We explained that the media has erroneously tried to stereotype the term death squads. The truth is that there have been a series of isolated events in which certain persons have committed a crime when trying to take justice into their hands. We said we must continue to convince all members of our society that things must be solved within the legal framework. We must make the utmost efforts to stop violence.

I added that we will continue to make efforts to end this kind of abuse. I also said that when these actions occur, we will carry out an investigation—not a politicized investigation but an investigation that follows the law. Whoever is involved in this kind of action will be held responsible for his actions.

However, I clearly said that no one can expect this kind of thing not to occur in a country facing a conflict like ours. This type of violence and situations occur in every war because individuals think—either because they feel frustrated or for other reasons—that they can violate moral and legal standards. I also said it is difficult to compare our country with a country like Switzerland, which enjoys peace and quiet, but we will certainly continue to try to prevent such actions. If such actions occur, we must carry out an investigation and punish whoever is found guilty.

[Reporter] The death squads and kidnappings are part of the human rights issue. Another report on your Washington visit says President Bush and the U.S. Government have decided, so to speak, to give ARENA a chance and wait and see how it will behave. This has not been interpreted as the full support the Christian Democratic administration enjoyed. How much support will ARENA and the next government receive from the U.S. Government?

[Cristiani] Frankly, the reality is that President Bush said he will support the new government. He said this support, which will to a great extent—albeit not all of it—consist of economic and military aid, has always been conditioned to a continuation of efforts to consolidate democracy and respect human rights. That is not new.

The problem with some people is that they operate under the perception that ARENA is something else; that we would begin to act differently in violation of basic principles such as democracy and the rights of man. The international press, which has always linked our party to violence, is now, in an attempt to reconcile themselves to the fact that President Bush and his administration will support our party, perhaps trying to underscore that such support is subjected to those conditions.

However, those conditions have been there from the start; a Salvadoran Government—be it headed by ARENA, the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], the Democratic Convergence, or any other political party—that fails to further democratic efforts and systematically violates human rights would run the risk of having the U.S. Administration cut off aid. This has nothing to do with the government itself. The U.S. Administration has actually said: We will support the Salvadoran people's decision in the same way that we have been supporting the previous government.

I believe that was the position of President Bush and his administration. This personal contact has allowed us to erase other doubts based on disinformation that were harbored by certain congressmen and senators. I can mention one who in the past has not supported our country, namely Senator Christopher Dodd. He said that in fact he received a report from observers who visited our country and who heard our proposal and government plan. Dodd said: I am willing to help your government because it is the product of the people's will, and we have no reason to be biased against you.

[Reporter] I would like to continue with this idea and follow up on the previous question. You know that President Duarte and the PDC had a better international image than ARENA's; you also know that any clarification, declaration, or any statement you make will be used abroad by certain groups to discredit you. This leads us to believe that ARENA is now facing a greater challenge than past governments because it has its weak side, which is the image of the future government or ARENA abroad. You have also said there are groups trying to discredit ARENA and the future government. We see that one of the weaknesses—because of economic or whatever causes—was in fact your party's inability to counter some of that disinformation in the United States and Europe. What does your government plan to do to counter this problem? Also, how will you obtain funds to fight this disinformation?

[Cristiani] I believe we can hardly change those attitudes, disinformation, and distorted perceptions through campaigns or statements. We are sure the weak side of our government that you mentioned is a weak side in someone's mind, but in reality this weak side does not exist. Once we are in government, we will demonstrate that this weak side or weakness has never existed. With our actions and our participation in the government, we will change opinions, because people will see our actions, not what others say we will do.

That is the difference. Right now, because we have never been in government, because the domestic opposition has exploited these ideas, and because the media, especially the international media, has repeated them, this impression of weakness exists, but we will not change it only with words or publicity campaigns. We will change it with actions. We are sure that we will encounter no problems, because our government is as democratic, as respectful of the rights of man, and as efficient as any other that could rule in our country. The members of our party are proud of this fact. We believe that we will have the support to implement the kind of government that all Salvadorans want. That will be the best weapon to ensure that they will stop disseminating this kind of information.

[Reporter] While you were meeting with President Bush and the U.S. administration, Dr Guillermo Ungo said that ARENA's nationalist shine has been gradually wearing off, or, to be more precise, gradually peeling off, because as soon as you were elected, you chose to meet with the U.S. President—almost to report to the U.S. President. In his view, it would have been better, or more nationalistic, if you had met with Central American presidents.

[Cristiani] We will in due time meet with the Central American presidents. We have already met with President Cerezo, and we will try to do the same with the others. However, we must keep in mind that, in view of the situation we will inherit, we can hardly improve or function if U.S. aid is cut off. I would ask Dr Ungo, and we must be clear about this: Does being a nationalist preclude one from seeking international support? For them, being a nationalist means seeking support from socialist countries. The FMLN has sought support in the USSR and Cuba.

Our action does not entail surrendering our sovereignty. The reality is that cooperation and possible U.S. aid will allow us to solve our problems with a Salvadoran solution. We will not accept foreign experiments as a guideline for our government for solving our problems. However, we cannot overlook the fact that we will, unfortunately, take over a government in very, very poor condition. It has been economically mismanaged. We have to take care of some very serious social problems. Obviously, we cannot reject aid that is given without conditions. This aid only calls, as I said, for a continuation of democracy and respect for the rights of man. Perhaps Dr Ungo believes that respecting these things amounts to surrendering our sovereignty.

We believe that we must do these things. We also plan to visit other countries to ensure that they will continue to support El Salvador and the Salvadoran people. We are not looking for support for Freddy Cristiani or [Vice President-elect] Francisco Merino. We are seeking support to ensure that the problems of the Salvadoran people will be resolved. This effort will require support. That does not mean surrending our sovereignty or no longer being nationalistic. Our relations with world democratic countries will be based on mutual respect. If they wish to cooperate, they must also accept the fact that Salvadorans want a Salvadoran Government and Salvadoran solutions.

[Reporter] There is the impression abroad that ARENA is divided between a group headed by Maj D'Aubuisson and another headed by you. Were questions raised about Maj D'Aubuisson's power in the party now and the possible influence he might have in the next government?

[Cristiani] Frankly, I have been surprised by certain rumors. I do not know what the basis of these rumors is. The other day on television I saw a reporter asking Maj D'Aubuisson himself about a letter signed by 19 congressmen, which I supposedly received, asking that Maj D'Aubuisson be removed or that he not be involved in government.

First, I have received no such letter. I do not know where that news came from. Second, there is no division. I believe that, naturally, as in any institution, there are people who might have different opinions on specific issues. However, we are all united behind the great objectives of our party. The government platform that we will implement was approved by our political party. There is no division.

We have often discussed this within our party and have arrived at the conclusion that a party such as the PDC, which is internally divided, and other parties, which have failed in the elections, such as the Democratic Convergence and other parties, try to create a division within the party that does not exist. That is why we are not affected by these rumors, and, frankly, we think it is a bit funny, because it seems that even letters by congressmen are being invented. I have never received letters from congressmen asking for anything in regard to Maj D'Aubuisson.

[Reporter] Were any questions raised in the United States in this regard during your meetings with various politicians?

[Cristiani] No. During news conferences, the same familiar questions, which we have answered I do not know how many times, always come up. They always ask the same questions. During our meetings with the administration, Congress, and the Senate, this was not the case. They were interested in knowing what we will do in government, especially with regard to the democratic process and human rights.

[Reporter] Regarding the military policy your government will follow, will Major D'Aubuisson and Colonel Ochoa, who are well-known military men and members of your party, influence the military decisions you make?

[Cristiani] Both of them are retired; they asked to retire. They are politicians now, but they are still capable military men. I have been told they had brilliant military careers. Nevertheless, they are now with the Legislative Branch, and military decisions are not made there. Active members of the Armed Forces High Command will make our military decisions. I believe, however, that I should dispel the mystery surrounding this issue. We all know that no one is perfect. There is always room for different opinions that should be taken into account, and if someone has a valid, good opinion, it should not be systematically or unreasonably rejected. If someone has been trained in a certain field and has ideas, his ideas should not be summarily dismissed. However, since D'Aubuisson and Ochoa are with the Legislative Branch, they are not in a position to direct military strategy. The Armed Forces High Command and its commands will do this.

[Reporter] I would like your comments on Nicaraguan President Ortega's statements to the effect that you have shown a desire to hinder the Esquipulas II plan by comparing the contras with the FMLN.

[Cristiani] I have, in fact, commented on this issue. I repeat that I believe if a regional effort is made, it should solve regional problems, not only President Ortega's or the Sandinist government's problems. I know the Sandinists—or the Cubans through Nicaragua—support the FMLN. There are FMLN training camps, hospitals, the general headquarters, radio stations, and everything else in Nicaragua. I believe it would only be fair—since we speak of regional solutions—to include the Salvadoran problem on the agenda. El Salvador must be included so it can be discussed at the Central American level. El Salvador does not want to be a hindrance, but it cannot sit back and exclusively support and solve Mr Ortega's problem in Nicaragua. He, too, must make clearly defined efforts if he wants the Salvadoran Government's support. To ensure peace and democracy in Nicaragua, Ortega must also support peace and democracy in El Salvador. Central America's agreements should be bilateral, not unilateral efforts aimed at solving Ortega's problems.

In the past I was rather skeptical about simply taking the Sandinist government's word, because Nicaragua had failed to fulfill all the promises it made at the OAS. Nicaragua says there are a number of reasons why this happened, but the fact is Nicaragua has not truly kept its promises. Nicaragua implemented a few timid measures at the beginning of Esquipulas II, and after making sure that the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] would not have support, the timid measures were retracted. Once again, however, Nicaragua is talking about an opening for the RN. Despite my skepticism, I am willing to stand by Nicaragua and give it another chance. I will cooperate with, not hinder, the regional peace effort. What I cannot accept, however, is Nicaragua's constant effort to overlook a Central American problem: that of El Salvador. President Ortega says he is not in any way involved in El Salvador when he knows Nicaragua has participated in efforts to subvert order in El Salvador by supporting the FMLN.

My plan is to bring up this problem with the Central American presidents so that it, too, can be solved. If Nicaragua wants to demobilize and disband the RN, then we should also talk about demobilizing and disbanding the FMLN, because it poses a similar problem. The RN is made up of Nicaraguans. It is formed by Nicaraguans who disagree with the government, and they outnumber the FMLN. Therefore, ours is not an effort to hinder Esquipulas II. We must be realistic; we should not seek a peace plan to solve a single country's problems. We must solve the regional problem.

[Reporter] If the issue is not settled and if the Nicaraguan president does not accede to this request regarding the the Esquipulas II accord, would you lend your government and territory... [corrects himself] our government and territory to support the Nicaraguan contras?

[Cristiani] I think that if the Nicaraguan contras survive it will be in Nicaraguan territory, not in El Salvador or Honduras. They will remain in Nicaraguan territory.

[Reporter] You know that neighboring territories are extremely important for this type of aid. The assistance that can be given by these territories and these governments is very important. Would you collaborate with the contras?

[Critiani] We are seeking a solution. First of all, I hate to think that this would be the scenario. I prefer to think that the scenario will be a lot of cooperation to settle conflicts in the area. Given the situation...[changes thought] First of all, we have no border with Nicaragua, meaning that they cannot directly cross our border. But it all depends on the support that the Sandinist Government gives to the FMLN. We have no intention of subverting any Central America government, particularly if the government results from a democratic, free, and honest process. We believe this is unacceptable and illogical, so we cannot support the overthrowing of another government. Quite the contrary, we will seek ways to keep small groups, like the FMLN, from disrupting order.

[Reporter] In regard to international relations, the weekly magazine SEMANA recently published an article on the next [Salvadoran] Government. The article said: The next administration will increase regional efforts to achieve peace. Would ARENA preclude making these efforts since it is clearly ruling out the possibility of achieving international agreements? Is there any reason [words indistinct]?

[Cristiani] That is a groundless and false statement because we will certainly exert ourselves to achieve regional agreements that bring peace and democracy to the Central American region.

[Reporter] What about the FMLN and the proposal we have already mentioned? Will you start some kind of negotiation or dialogue based on this proposal? Will you wait until you are sworn in before issuing an invitation to the FMLN? Should the FMLN be the one to propose a dialogue?

[Cristiani] We have already said that we are ready—even right now—to sit down and talk, but we must sit down and talk in realistic terms, not based on strategic schemes to benefit their campaigns of violence. If they really want to sit down and talk about peace and the return of their members to a democratic and civilian process, then I believe we all are willing to do so. We must seek a way to make this dialogue possible without the threat of war and seek a cease-fire in [12-second break in reception] even with the party or through a pact.

However, this must be discussed in realistic and not unrealistic terms. We cannot let ourselves be used in a game strategies or play a game that only seeks to mock the Salvadoran people's hopes for peace. We must not let the people down. They must know where they stand. We cannot deceive them with some kind of maneuver or show if, in fact, nothing has been discussed. We will exert ourselves to make this dialogue possible, but it is obvious that it all depends on the FMLN, which uses the ploy of issuing a dialogue proposal while carrying out indiscriminate terrorist actions and seeking to create more and more violence. It is up to the FMLN whether we participate or not in a dialogue that sincerely seeks peace, because we are willing to do it.

[Reporter] I imagine that your first meeting with the U.S. President and his government team must have been a new experience. In somewhat breaking the formality of an interview of this nature, I would like to ask you what special moments you experienced at the White House and during your tour of Washington. Some moments may have been especially pleasant and some especially unpleasant.

[Cristiani] I believe it is always pleasant to meet new people, people who are involved in the political life of other countries, and to listen to them and to learn and share their problems. I believe it is very pleasant to meet new people. It is something I find satisfying. During this trip, I had the opportunity to meet some people and to initiate friendships with many of them.

President Bush is a very unpretentious person, very kind, very calm. It is easy to talk with him. He is not overly formal. Sometimes one imagines that one is going to be involved in very formal sessions, but he contributes to holding meetings and talks in a friendly atmosphere. I cannot say that the meetings were informal because obviously they were not, but the meetings were friendly and of the type that serve as the possible beginning of a friendship with another person, in this case a man who is the leader of the United States.

The whole trip was pleasant. I was a bit tired but we are here to work and that is what we said we would do. We are prepared to continue working. Perhaps the only unpleasant experience was seeing how some people are naively manipulated. There were between 10 and 15 demonstrators. None of them were Latin American, much less Salvadoran. We were informed that some of them are professional agitators who are paid for doing what they do. It is unpleasant to see how some people are trying to give a nation a distorted image of a country like ours. This was unpleasant.

Perhaps one of the most pleasant moments for me was when I was able to meet with 200 fellow countrymen during a reception in our honor at a hotel on Sunday. I was able to see how some of our countrymen make an honest living. There was a music group, (Elia Casio) and Orchestra. This group is made up entirely of Salvadorans. They livened up the party and we were able to dance a while and to spend time with our fellow countrymen. This was also an important moment during our visit there.

[Reporter] Regarding the situation of our countrymen in the United States, what is the future Salvadoran administration going to do to ease the pressure they endure?

[Cristiani] We are supporting and we will support as much as possible an initiative by a U.S. representative and a U.S. senator. The senator is [Dennis] DeConcini and the representative is [Joe] Moakley. They are trying to get an extension for the immigration amnesty that has been in effect to normalize the situation for many Salvadorans—but for Salvadorans who are already in the United States because this is not to benefit new arrivals. Some believe that only our countries have this kind of problem, but in the United States, unfortunately, there are also people who, in finding out that a Salvadoran is there illegally, have been paying those Salvadorans wages beneath the minimum wage. I am not saying that this is a general practice, but it has happened. We have to try to prevent this situation because our fellow countrymen make great efforts to go to a foreign country whose language most Salvadorans cannot speak. We have to try to keep them from being abused and to help them live in peace.

We spoke with Senator DeConcini and Representative Moakley, and we told them that we will continue working and helping to win approval for their initiative in the U.S. House and Senate.

[Reporter] To conclude, there are two points that do not involve your trip directly but the national situation and that we would like to touch upon. In recent days we have heard President Duarte state a concern of his. He has said that during his administration he promoted freedom of speech and freedom of the press and that he is concerned about what could happen in this regard under the new administration. He and his cabinet have decided to draft a bill to regulate and to protect freedom of the press. What do you think of President Duarte's concern, and what will be your position regarding freedom of the press under the new government?

[Cristiani] We do not believe that regulations and laws to guarantee freedom of the press are necessary since freedom of speech and freedom of the press are concepts of our own. We have plans to continue defending, maintaining, and promoting this situation in El Salvador. If Mr Duarte has decided that it is necessary to pass a bill to ensure these rights so that these freedoms are not threatened, then we can support the bill and turn it into a joint effort, but I repeat: Our government will never obstruct freedom of speech or freedom of the press. We never thought, it never occurred to us, that this could be legislated, but if this is how he sees it, we can support this legislation.

[Reporter] There have been rumors about your cabinet. Recently a list of the names of people who will be in your cabinet was published. The names were reportedly obtained from unofficial sources. Do you have a list with the names of your cabinet members, and when will the people know the names?

[Cristiani] This is mere speculation. I know the media is interested. I am constantly being asked something about the cabinet. The cabinet has not been appointed yet. For some positions, we already have some people who are being considered and with whom we have been talking, but we want to keep speculation out of this since there is no point to it. We will announce the cabinet on 1 June when it will be sworn in during the inauguration. That is when the cabinet will be announced. Any report on it before then is just speculation and not in line with the truth.

Radio Venceremos Comments

PA1604164389 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Station commentary: "Simplism or Realism: ARENA Cannot Govern"]

[Text] This morning we saw Alfredo Cristiani in a televised interview. As always, Cristiani was very simplistic and superficial. He finds it very easy to say such things like he was able to acquire in-depth familiarity with U.S. policy in 1 week.

With this tunnel vision, Cristiani says he is prepared to engage in a dialogue with the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN]. He says the FMLN must stop the violence—the war, that is—and then become incorporated into the so-called democratic process.

Cristiani offered, and we quote: To agree on an end to hostilities jointly or through a pact, [as heard] end quote, and then to engage in a dialogue on the matter of the incorporation.

We think Cristiani has to be realistic. In the country's present situation, in the present state of war, ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] cannot govern. ARENA cannot govern. [repeats himself] If ARENA or any other group wants to govern, it must solve the problem of the war. Obviously, ARENA will not end the war militarily. It has to negotiate the end of the war by political means. Our proposal is logical: The war has causes and origins; let us sit down to negotiate. Let us sit down to negotiate and open paths to resolve the causes that led to the war. Then we will be able to reach an agreement on an end to hostilities. To think otherwise is unrealistic. The fact is that ARENA wants to reactivate the economy, revoke the colorless reforms, and practice selective repression. If ARENA wants to govern, it must reaffirm that it is a government elected by a majority of Salvadorans. It has to confirm this and we offer the opportunity to do this through elections under conditions different from those of the past elections. Otherwise, the country's realities will prevail, and ARENA will not be able to govern.

Ponce Comments on New Government 'Strategy'

PA1404222889 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Report by Marco Antonio Guevara—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said today that the Salvadoran conflict not only requires military solutions but also political and other kinds of solutions. He added that he is confident that the new government will be able to handle the situation.

[Ponce] "As we have said on many occasions, the conflict requires more than just a military solution since it has also been caused by political, economic, and social factors. The military problem is just one factor, so the solution cannot be exclusively of a military nature. Although the military factor is important, it is not the only one. The conflict must be solved through joint and coordinated actions in all the various areas of our national life. Foreign factors are important too. For instance, in the case of the contras, the Sandinist government did not defeat the contras in Nicaragua but in Washington."

During an impromptu news conference, Col Ponce answered many questions, particularly regarding possible strategic changes with the new government.

[Ponce] "We have developed a strategy based on respecting, promoting, and protecting human rights; strengthening the democratic process; and enhancing our professionalism and combat readiness each day. These three philosophical principles of the Armed Forces must continue [words indistinct] government in our country."

Regarding President-elect Cristiani's trip to the United States, Col Ponce said that the fact that the ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] government has been guaranteed aid—at least that is what has been reported—is positive.

[Ponce] "From what I have read in the media, the results have been positive. At least he is not being condemned beforehand, and he is being given a chance to prove that his government will be at the people's service and that it will benefit the people who elected him president."

Col Ponce said that for the time being it is important to allow the new government to show its good intentions. Regarding his possible appointment as defense minister, he said there is nothing definite in this regard yet, adding that this is a decision that must be made by the president-elect.

FMLN's Ana Guadalupe Martinez Interviewed

PA1404142489 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Interview with Ana Guadalupe Martinez, Farabundo Marti National Liberation commander, by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Comrade Commander Ana Guadalupe Martinez: In a communique released a few hours ago, the U.S. Embassy demanded, as a first step toward a dialogue and negotiation to solve the conflict, that the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] end the killings, stop the violence, and rejoin the legal political life. What can you tell us about this U.S. Embassy communique?

[Martinez] Regarding the first condition mentioned in the U.S. Embassy communique—that the FMLN end the killings—we clearly and emphatically would like to establish who is provoking the killings in El Salvador.

First, the FMLN does not practice a genocidal policy. This has been the main policy implemented throughout all these years of war by U.S. sectors and the Salvadoran Army. They have not exactly protected the civilians and politicians; quite the contrary. They have practiced extermination, terror, and repression to dissuade those who are willing to cooperate with the FMLN. Therefore, who are the ones who must end the killings in El Salvador so a real peaceful and political solution can be achieved, so we can begin to build a lasting peace in El Salvador? The Salvadoran Army and its U.S. support. Therefore, we will turn the question right back to them and ask: Who must stop the killings? Are you not the unconditional supporters of that Army and promoters of the policy of dealing with civilians as if they were enemies?

Now, about joining the democratic process: We are not in the least convinced there is a process of democratization in El Salvador. Why? The current constitution was drafted by the rightist sectors, by Roberto D'Aubuisson as leader of the Constituent Assembly. The assemblymen who drafted the constitution are leaders of the rightist parties: (Ester Maria Castillo), Francisco Quinones, and Roberto D'Aubuisson are some of the names we recall as leaders of the 1982 Constituent Assembly. Therefore, this is a constitution drafted by the rightist sectors to defend the interests of the rich, the oligarchs, the right. We cannot say those laws help the lower classes; those laws (?lack a) sense of justice.

To give you an example, that constitution restricts the agrarian reform. What does this mean? The Constituent Assembly was not supporting an agrarian reform Jose Napoleon Duarte was supposed to develop. If we study each of the laws separately, we can see the Constitution does not defend the interests of the country's poor majority, but the interests of those who are ruling the country today, the Nationalist Republican Alliance [ARENA].

The results of the recent elections also prove there is no democracy. A minority voted, and it voted for the right. Now that same rightist sector is trying to become a government that represents all the Salvadoran people. However, its government plan is only aimed at favoring one sector, the rich. If you do not believe this, let us recall Cristiani's first statements. He said his government would put the banking and foreign trade sectors back into private hands. These are two changes, [words indistinct] at this time, but Jose Napoleon Duarte also offered to make certain changes, and now we see the agrarian reform issue is back on the table. There are several things that make us think there is no democracy, justice, or respect for human rights; therefore, there is no democratization process.

The current constitution is the result of a concerted effort by a sector of the people, the oligarchs, and some Christian Democratic Party puppets. Therefore, that constitution does not help the FMLN, much less the people. That constitution, that concerted effort, cannot be accepted by us. We said in a recent proposal that if a new constitution is not drafted, there is no possibility for the FMLN to rejoin civilian life. Therefore, we reject the U.S Embassy's proposal that we accept things as they are, cease the armed struggle, and believe in the word of the death squad members—that is what ARENA is: the party of the death squads.

They cannot ask us to have good faith when their actions have never been aimed at proving good faith, especially toward the interests of the people.

[Reporter] Commander, during the campaign and prior to the 19 March elections, we had heard ARENA would have a national unity cabinet. However, on 10 April, EL DIARIO DE HOY, known as ARENA's newspaper, published a list of names that included, to my surprise, the name of Vice President-elect Francisco Merino as possible Interior Minister. What is your opinion regarding this cabinet composed of businessmen and managers all linked to the National Association of Private Enterprise, ARENA, and similar organizations?

[Martinez] This confirms what we said a few minutes ago. This is a government for the rich, a government that will defend the interests of the oligarchy and the rich, of all those who have spent the past 8 years dreaming of returning to power to rebuild the type of government we had before 1979. We should not be surprised if the whole government comprises technocrats or oligarchs. We are already hearing the names of the famous 14 families of the past, those families who took our country's wealth.

Regarding Merino, no one should be surprised if he is appointed interior minister. Everyone knows Francisco Merino—by the way, he is not an engineer—is a member of the death squads; he is Roberto D'Aubuisson's right hand. Since the United States has practically (?ordered) that Roberto D'Aubuisson not be given a government post— the U.S. Congress, the Democrats, all those who are worried because of ARENA's victory, have asked that D'Aubuisson not be appointed to a government office, which was one of the conditions Bush himself reiterated during Cristiani's recent trip—he just appointed his best friend, his ally, his unconditional supporter to that post. Therefore, the Interior Ministry is really in D'Aubuisson's hands, not in Francisco Merino's hands.

Remember all that was said when Merino's name was suggested as vice presidential candidate. Everyone agreed Merino had been imposed by Roberto D'Aubuisson because D'Aubuisson could not be a candidate on the ticket that would compete against the Christian Democrats. Merino is going to do what he has always done: organize the death squads. The Interior Ministry will be used for just that. It is the best equipped ministry for such a purpose; it is the best equipped to organize the forces throughout the country. They will become legal [words indistinct] they will no longer be a clandestine force; they will be able to walk about in broad daylight protected by the Interior Ministry organized by Merino, with D'Aubuisson as chief.

[Reporter] You said D'Aubuisson imposed Merino on Cristiani. (?Does Cristiani) represent a different sector? It is said there is a moderate faction within ARENA.

[Martinez] When I say Merino is D'Aubuisson's representative, I mean the Yankees told ARENA from the very beginning they did not want D'Aubuisson to be a direct candidate. I am not saying Alfredo Cristiani does not represent D'Aubuisson or that Merino is part of the death squads and Cristiani is the moderate side. No, they both represent the country's oligarchic and rightist sector.

We should also add something. ARENA boasts so-called independence from the U.S. Government. But from the very moment they selected their ticket for the 19 March elections, the so-called independence was lost and they had to admit that D'Aubuisson—the most charismatic of ARENA's leaders; the oligarchy viewed him as the best candidate to carry out the dirty war and end subversion in the country—could not be a candidate. They had to yield to U.S. pressures. This has been further confirmed by the statements made during Merino and Cristiani's recent trip. They said: D'Aubuisson is good, which we have to admit; however, he will not be in the government. He is happy being a deputy. In other words, if we believe what they are saying, the bull has been tamed.

[Reporter] While Cristiani is in the United States presenting a moderate image, why is Ochoa Perez in El Salvador talking about the atomic bomb and explaining ARENA's guidelines for total war?

[Martinez] I think this truly shows ARENA, which wants to physically exterminate every opposition member. (?The atomic bomb) was the weapon used to exterminate the largest number of people; it is the weapon that caused the most damage during World War II. ARENA's goal is to pulverize every FMLN member, every single FMLN

collaborator, every worker struggling for rights, and every member of the opposition parties who play an important role among the people.

[Reporter] Is ARENA capable of doing such a thing?

[Martinez] I think they are going to try. They have talked about low-intensity warfare. They feel low-intensity warfare, or a low-intensity conflict, is only half a war. Today I read that before 19 March, Cristiani spoke to an Italian newspaper and said the war in El Salvador is not a war, but is only half a war. What did he mean? That all the possible methods to achieve a military victory are not being used. How is this possible if the Army is very well armed, has helicopters, has planes, drops bombs, and has practically no problems supplying itself? How is this possible if they have 57,000 soldiers ready to exterminate those whom they call terrorist groups? This is half a war for them, because there are no members of the death squads walking freely in broad daylight. If there are death squads, they are clandestine; they are selective in their actions and are not as open as they were in the past.

During his first news conference in the United States, Cristiani was asked about the death squads. He said the number of death squads had decreased because in the past, 800 persons (?were killed) each month and now only 20 die. What does that mean? Those 20 are animals? They are Salvadorans being killed by the death squads. So why is this only half a war? Because only 20 people are dying each month? Do 800 deaths a month determine a complete war?

[Reporter] Now, turning to ARENA's economic plan, an article published in one of the newspapers today says that the economic plan appears to include the so-called stars of public administration. Names such as Ortiz Avalos are mentioned. It points out that the country needs to imitate the so-called Pacific economic models practiced in Taiwan, Hong Kong, and elsewhere. What are ARENA's chances for revitalizing the economy and eliminating corruption, for example?

[Martinez] I only want to tell you that in the places that you just mentioned, there is no war and there are no highly skilled guerrillas as there are in El Salvador. What those countries have are strong military governments. The military is the dominant force. In addition, economic strength plays a big role in the success of economic plans. As for El Salvador, even though these gentlemen may have attended prestigious U.S. universities and even though they may know all the theories necessary to implement their plans, they cannot ignore reality when they attempt to carry out their economic plan. They must consider the war in our country. At present, the entire national territory is virtually a war zone.

Five years ago, the war was not as widespread as it is today. ARENA will inherit a country at war and a grave social crisis that will prevent them from developing their economic theories learned by rote at those universities. The conditions for developing their plans do not exist. They must be rational and realize that they cannot accomplish their plans while the war continues.

Therefore, they should declare themselves a transitional government to promote peace. If this is done, we could begin a period of firm negotiations and then hold new elections and reach economic and social agreements, which would allow the Salvadoran people to have a reprieve in this serious situation, which affects the majority of the Salvadoran people.

[Report] Comrade Ana Guadalupe Martinez, to conclude this interview, what is the outlook for the [word indistinct] in view of ARENA's election victory?

[Martinez] I would say that, first, we would have to make a great effort in all areas of our struggle to make it very clear that in our country, the oligarchy can no longer rule as it has in the past 50 years. First, there is an armed, rebellious people, with new and greater levels of organization, with experience in struggling in many fields. We have been able to create community organizations. Even Christian groups agree with the need for real changes in Salvadoran society. Churches must become very concerned because, in the past, the Salvadoran Government has assassinated their dearest leaders, such as Msgr Arnulfo Romero.

Right now everyone is uneasy. There is good reason for this, because the new government is the one linked with the death squads. To face this government, we must be willing to struggle on each battlefront: The guerrilla movement, the war fronts, labor union leaders in their factories, workers in their labor unions, teachers in their schools, and clergymen accompanying Christians and Catholics in their struggle against this government, which—I repeat—is the one linked with the death squads. It is not the moderate government with the moderate face of Cristiani—that is a lie. We expect each one of us to decide to actively join the struggle to [words indistinct] government. We must erase the arrogance with which the new government's leaders have appeared on television and on the radio following their international tours, where they have said they will be able to rule the country.

If we struggle in each of these areas, we will be able to stop this government. We will be able to show them that the Salvadoran people have learned to fight and to organize themselves. The most important thing is that we should be willing to turn our experiences into social, economic, and political changes leading to democracy and respect for human rights so we can have a free and just society.

FMLN Vows To Respect, Cooperate With Media

PA1404161089 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Communique issued by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front; date and place not given]

[Text] 1. The Farabundo National Liberation Front [FMLN] General Command calls on its units throughout

the country to continue practicing their customary respect and consideration toward the local and international news media so the media can perform their job to provide information useful to our people and the international community.

2. The FMLN has always been respectful and cooperative toward the news media; therefore, it does not feel it is mentioned in the Union of Journalists and Related Workers of El Salvador's appeal to both sides to respect reporters' work. The Salvadoran Armed Forces are the ones that must make a commitment in this respect.

3. The Salvadoran Armed Forces and the Nationalist Republican Alliance [ARENA] government can render into fact Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce's recent remarks that the media's work will be respected. Therefore, obstacles to reporters in reaching our fronts, seizure of reporters' materials, threats by ARENA followers against reporters, and harassment of the news media must end. [Signed] FMLN General Command.

New Right-wing Group Emerges in Wake of Bombing
PA1504230089 Paris AFP in Spanish 0134 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] San Salvador, 14 Apr (AFP)—The self-styled "Guardians of Free Enterprise" emerged today in El Salvador, strongly criticizing Army leaders who give in to "foreign pressures."

In a communique read on local radio stations, the group claimed to represent a "broad group of patriotic citizens" who are concerned about the recent incidents of violence over the few past weeks in El Salvador.

The communique reads: "It is inconceivable that, in the face of the terrorist escalation, there are still some evil military leaders who, in giving in to foreign pressures and demands, meekly agree to punish exemplary officers of our heroic Armed Forces, who are so valuable to our country."

Media circles noted that the communique may be designed to support the military personnel involved in the massacre of 10 peasants in San Sebastian in September of last year and those implicated in the killing of two journalists during the 19 March elections.

An investigation of the San Sebastian killings was initiated after the U.S. Embassy in this capital exerted heavy pressure for an accounting of the incident and a trial has subsequently begun. Currently a major, a lieutenant, and four soldiers are under arrest in connection with these incidents.

"The Guardians of Free Enterprise" labeled certain military leaders as "undignified" and encouraged all the country's productive sectors to come out against them, because "they are really nothing but a fifth column within the Armed Forces and, in practice, are affiliated with the terrorists." The organization expressed its "gratitude and admiration" for the patriotic soldiers who, in a "manly and exemplary" manner, fight the terrorist monster and organizations which it claims are a "facade of the FMLN."

With the motto: "The only good terrorist is a dead terrorist," the "Guardians of Free Enterprise" urged military personnel to fight the guerrillas and leaders of mass organizations.

Also, it appealed for "respect for the people's will, which was clearly expressed at the polls last 19 March," when Alfredo Cristiani, the rightist Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) candidate, was elected president.

The communique of the rightist group appeared 9 hours after an attack on the home of Vice President-elect Francisco Merino. Urban guerrilla commands did not claim responsibility for the attack, attributing it instead to members of the Army.

Sabotage of Power Stations, Attacks Reported
PA1404231989 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] Mechanical failures at a central hydroelectric plant and guerrilla sabotage caused power failures in many parts of our country today.

CEL [Lempa River Hydroelectric Executive Commission] spokesmen reported that the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] guerrillas blew up various power facilities early today, leaving a main power transmission line out of service.

CEL also reported that due to mechanical failures affecting a turbine and a power generator at the 15 September Dam, it will have to ration electricity service, mainly in San Salvador.

The CEL spokesman said that the power rationing will affect 15 percent of the national territory tonight.

Meanwhile, according to last-minute reports, two members of the Treasury Police were wounded tonight as a result of a bomb explosion at the main entrance to the Salvadoran Bank near the National Theater. The reports state that unidentified individuals tossed an explosive at one of the main gates that wounded the guards stationed there. The building, located in Morazan Plaza, No 2 North Avenue, was not damaged by the blast.

Army spokesmen reported that one guerrilla was killed and two others were wounded during a surprise attack on a guerrilla column that was guarding an underground hideout near San Jose de las Flores. Following the clash, soldiers seized a large number of weapons, along with ammunition and other military supplies from the rebels.

Military sources also reported that two civilians were wounded yesterday when a grenade tossed into a business establishment located on 29th Street West exploded. Two

civilians who were wounded by the blast, Maria Santos de Cortes and Manuel Delgado, received medical attention from members of the Salvadoran Red Cross.

Honduras

Azcona Arrives in Taipei for Official Visit

OW1204230489 Taipei CNA in English 1549 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] Taipei, April 12 (CNA)—The presidents of both the Republic of China [ROC] and the Republic of Horduras said here Wednesday that even though the two countries are separated by thousands of miles, their traditional cooperative ties have been cordial.

The two heads of states gave short speeches shortly after Horduran President Jose Simon Azcona Hoyo flew into Taipei Wednesday afternoon for a five-day official visit to the ROC on Taiwan.

The Honduran head of state was accorded a 21-gun military salute upon his arrival at Sung Shan Military Airport before inspecting the Chinese Armed Forces honor guards.

In his speech, President Li Teng-hui, on behalf of the ROC Government and people, extended a hearty welcome to his Honduran counterpart.

President Li spoke highly of Azcona's great contributions to safeguarding the world's freedom, peace, and democracy, as well as to upholding international justice.

Li also praised Azcona, saying that he is not only a head of state beloved by his people but is also one of the most outstanding statesmen of Central America.

Li said that he will meet Azcona to discuss matters of mutual concern and the international situation during Azcona's stay in Taiwan.

Since both the ROC and Honduras share the ideals of freedom and democracy, with President Azcona's visit to the ROC, the two countries will further consolidate bilateral cooperative relations, Li said.

Azcona said in return that he believed that his visit to the ROC, his first trip to the nation, would help enhance ties between the two countries.

Azcona said that he was highly impressed by the over 1,000 school children who waved the national flags of the two countries to greet him at the airport. He explained that it was the two national flags, the symbols of peace-loving countries, that deeply touched him.

He noted that he was honored that he, together with his wife, could visit the ROC and exchange views with President Li and other ranking ROC officials.

After their speeches, Taipei Mayor Wu Poh-hsiung presented Azcona the key to the city.

Azcona, according to the itinerary released Wednesday, will pay tribute to the nation's revolutionary martyrs and then visit the Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall and the Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall Thursday morning.

Discusses Cooperation With Li

OW1404032489 Taipei CNA in English 1540 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] Taipei, April 13 (CNA)—President Li Teng-hui met with Honduran President Jose Simon Azcona Hoyo at the presidential office Thursday morning for an exchange of opinions on the Central American situation and on ways to strengthen economic, trade and technological cooperaion between the Republic of China [ROC] and Honduras.

President Li, who succeeded to the presidency in January 1988, bid a warm welcome to President Azcona, who arrived in Taipei Wednesday for a one-day visit, the first to the ROC by a Honduran president.

Azcona told Li he would take advantage of the trip to gain a better understanding of the ROC's political, ecovomic, educational and social development.

During the meeting, the Honduran head of state invited President Li to visit his country. Li thanked him for the invitation but presidential office officials later said the date for a visit has yet to be decided.

In the evening, President Li, on behalf of the ROC Government, conferred the Order of Brilliant Jade on President Azcona. The ROC head of state praised Azcona as an outstanding statesman who has made great contributions to the Honduran people and to the promotion of ROC-Honduran relations.

The ceremony at the presidential office was witnessed by Mrs Li, Mrs Azcona, top ROC and Honduran Government leaders, and members of the foreign diplomatic corps.

Afterwards, President and Mrs Azcona and their entourage were honor guests at a state dinner hosted by President Li.

Earlier in the day, Azcona talked with ROC Premier Yu Kuo-hua for 30 minutes at the Taipei Grand Hotel. He told Yu that Honduras welcomes ROC businessmen to invest there and hopes cooperation between the two countcies will be strengthened even further.

He added that a Honduran business delegation will visit the ROC in late April to explore trade opportunities and to discuss investment cooperation projects with local businessmen.

Premier Yu told the Honduran head of state that the ROC is willing to share its economic development experience with his country and hopes it will be helpful to the Central American nation's future development.

Yu also promised that the nation will increase its investments in and expand its cooperation projects with Honduras.

Honduras, with cheap labor costs and abundant natural resources, should be an attractive investment location for ROC companies who have been hard hit by the sharp appreciation of the New Taiwan dollar and rising wages.

Man Killed Hurling Bomb at U.S. Warehouse

PA1704035789 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0310 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Tegucigalpa, 16 Apr (ACAN - EFE)—One man was killed and another seriously injured this evening when a powerful explosive they were attempting to hurl from a passing motorcycle at a U.S. Embassy warehouse in Tegucigalpa exploded before they could throw it.

The dead man has been identified as 39-year-old Miguel Rodolfo Aguilar Flores of Tegucigalpa. His body was blown to bits by the explosion.

The wounded man has not been identified. He was admitted in a semiconscious state to the burns unit of the Escuela Hospital.

According to police, the bomb was Chinese-made and might have been detonated by heat from the motorcycle or from friction created as a result of being place between the two men on the motorcycle.

Another theory is that the two men dropped the bomb when they tried to throw it at the warehouse, which is located 1 km northwest of the U.S. Embassy. Police believe that the bomb was going to be placed in the U.S. Embassy warehouse by members of the Honduran left to commemmorate what people here call "Black April" for the United States.

On 7 April 1988, a mob set fire to the U.S. Consulate in Tegucigalpa and to 30 diplomatic vehicles. [passage omitted]

Nicaragua

Ortega on U.S. 'Aggression,' Aid to Contras

PA1704021289 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0057 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Speech by President Daniel Ortega Saavedra at a ceremony commemorating the 10th anniversary of the "fall of the heroes of Veracruz" in Leon on 16 April; recorded—broadcast in progress]

[Text] ...commemorating the 10th anniversary [word indistinct] here in Leon, and also in Chinandega, in Managua, Rivas, Granada, and in all of Nicaragua to protect children. Amid the difficulties and problems we are confronting to meet the demands and needs of [word indistinct], we must all work to help our children so that our children's mortality rate will go down, as has happened here in Leon. The mortality rate for children has dropped compared to the same period last year, which means that more children are surviving.

In the same way we comply with our military defense tasks to protect the revolution, we must also attend to our economic tasks. We have here a courageous contingent [word indistinct] tribute to the [words indistinct], which shows the courage, determination, and awareness of the Nicaraguan youth, who are always ready to defend their homeland and their revolution.

We have made and continue to make great efforts to bring total and definitive peace to Nicaragua, so that no more Nicaraguans will die on the battlefields as a result of Yankee imperialism. It is not due to a lack of willingness on the part of the Nicaraguan Government or people that peace has not been achieved.

We can also say that it is not due to lack of willingness on the part of the Central American presidents that peace has not been attained, because the Central American presidents have agreed to work for peace. We established a 90-day deadline to eliminate the contras, so that those who want to return to Nicaragua can come back and those who prefer to go to another country can do so.

However, the Yankee government, the U.S. President, the U.S. Congress—not all congressmen but a majority of them—approved additional funds to maintain the contras in Honduran territory and also to maintain the contras who are still killing our people inside our country in violation of the truce. More than $50 million was approved to maintain the contras in Honduras for 300 more days.

After the Central American presidents established a 90-day deadline within which to eliminate the contras, to dismantle and relocate them, the Yankee government began talking about 300 days, and then Honduras began to renege on the agreement it signed in El Salvador. The new Salvadoran president, who will take office in June, also wants to do away with the peace agreement signed in El Salvador.

So the war does not depend on us; it depends on the Yankees. We have been and will continue struggling for peace. We must, however, continue to steadfastly brandish our rifles to defend ourselves from the Yankee aggression, to defeat the Yankee aggression, and to bury the mercenaries once and for all.

Conservative Leader on Opposition-RN 'Unity'

PA1504144389 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Statement by Julio Ruiz Quezada, member of the Conservative Party's board of directors; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] There is no doubt that there is concern in Sandinist circles. I do not blame them. The Sandinists felt compelled to call a meeting of their assembly because of several reasons. These reasons could be political or perhaps political and economic at the same time.

As for the country's political situation, I want to stress that Daniel Ortega's request at the [Central American presidential] meeting in El Salvador to move up the election process was strange. It was strange because Nicaragua's civic opposition had never even dared to suggest such a thing. The Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] had never asked for it either during the four talks held after Sapoa. The Central American presidents had not demanded this from Ortega. Why then did Ortega, on his own, offer this without waiting for someone to ask him for it? There must have been some problem.

As I mentioned before, the problem could be a combination of political and economic aspects. I am certain that it was both. He has no new funds. He needed, just as he did in 1984, to pretend that there was a democratic opening to get more money because the state apparatus is completely bogged down with hyperinflation and the recession that has resulted.

Consequently, all these problems compelled the Sandinist Assembly and the Sandinist National Liberation Front's National Directorate to meet.

The decision to move up the elections prompted a reaction from the opposition and, to the Sandinists' surprise, the opposition became united instead of separated—as happened on other occasions—in the face of possibile elections. Communists, socialists, social Christians, conservatives, liberals, etc—all the political groups in the country—united to face Sandinism. To this we must add the unity with the foreign armed resistance, the RN, which abandoned military actions to participate in the civic event as long as the Sandinists allow them to return to the country.

All of this is what is keeping the Sandinists worried, meeting, and afraid.

Editorial Praises Meeting

PA1704023089 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 11 Apr 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Guatemala: First Effects of the Bush Plan"]

[Text] The 14 political parties making up the [Nicaraguan] civic opposition recently visited Guatemala at the invitation of Guatemalan President Cerezo and in direct contradiction to the government's condemnation of the Bush plan for its violation of the El Salvador agreement. Among their activities during the visit, the opposition parties exchanged impressions with the members of the Nicaraguan Resistance (or the contras, as the Sandinists prefer to call them.) It has never been possible for such a meeting to take place in Nicaragua.

The Bush plan, or the bipartisan agreement reached between the two political currents of U.S. public opinion (Democrats and Republicans), has the virtue of reconciling the two parties' viewpoints on the contras' existence. By depriving the contras of military aid, yet renewing contra humanitarian aid, the (now unified) U.S. Congress is sending the rulers of our country a very clear message: No more excuses for not complying with the Arias plan! No more delays! No more deceit!

The [Nicaraguan] Government, meanwhile, has pretended not to hear this message and has persisted in its policy of distortion and misinformation. It has tried in vain to convince people by making false statements, such as: "The contras are a fetid corpse that must be buried"; and "The demobilization of the contras must precede the elections." Not only are these statements false, they are also fooling their own supporters by giving them the impression that theirs is a triumphant position that only needs a bit of economic assistance for a complete victory.

Nothing could be further from the truth. It is precisely for this reason that President Cerezo has promoted this meeting in Guatemala. The members of the opposition will thus have the chance to discuss a possible solution for this national tragedy and to join efforts, preferably civic efforts, to help reach this goal. The meeting in Guatemala has promoted a dialogue—the only civilized means of preventing a war. Anyone opposed to democracy's civilized paths reveals a military and totalitarian spirit.

Therefore, this historic embrace between the contras and the civic opposition, leaves us with only two choices: either to honor "Esquipulas II" and "El Salvador" or to risk facing a conflict no one wants.

Contra Leader Denies U.S. Senator's Allegations

PA1604145189 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2236 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] San Jose, 15 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaraguan "contra" leader Jose Robelo today denied in Costa Rica the charge made by U.S. Senator John Kerry in a report to Congress that Robelo was involved in drug trafficking while in charge of operations on the southern front.

Robelo, who lives in Costa Rica and is a brother of Alfonso Robelo, another "contra" leader, said he was prepared to travel to the United States to take part in the investigations in order to prove his innocence.

According to Kerry's report, President Ronald Reagan's administration "looked the other way with regard to the involvement of the contras and Panamanian General Manuel Antonio Noriega in drug trafficking to prevent the war against Nicaragua from failing."

"At no time or at any place have I been engaged in activities that are or may have been directly or indirectly connected with the nefarious drug smuggling business," Robelo told the Costa Rican press.

In his report, Kerry says that he found "substantial evidence of drug trafficking in war zones by guerrillas, suppliers, pilots, mercenaries, and people who supported the contras."

One of those he mentions is Jose Robelo, who he says was in charge of air operations on the anti-Sandinist rebels' southern front.

"The slanderous reference to me is part of the political ploy used by powerful interests to disqualify, discredit, and destroy all of us who are struggling in Central America," the "contra" leader asserted.

Kerry based his report on testimony by former officials of the U.S. Government and Latin American countries as well as convicted drug traffickers.

Sandinist 'Mobs' Reportedly Attack CTN Leaders

PA1504175989 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] Approximately 50 Sandinist undesirables from the so-called Sandinist mobs attacked Central Organization of Nicaraguan Workers [CTN] leaders in La Esperanza port yesterday at 1830. The CTN leaders were holding a political meeting with port workers.

CTN leaders Sergio Roa Gutierrez, political training secretary, and Cayetano Borge Escorcia had traveled to the region to organize the workers for the 1 May celebrations.

During the meeting, about eight activists of the Ortega regime, who are members of progovernment organizations of the mayor's office and other institutions, tried to damage one of the CTN's vehicles.

We have the names of the persons who staged the attack:

Lolo Paez, FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] delegate; Cacho Chavez, CDS [Sandinist Defense Committee] coordinator for the Maritza Zeledon neighborhood; (Angela Lumbi), CDS coordinator for the Francisco Matamoros neighborhood; Gloria Velasquez, CDS coordinator for the Luis Alfonso Velasquez neighborhood; (Diraisa Lumbi), Julio Buitrago school principal; Jeronimo Sevilla Tenorio, CST [Sandinist Central Organization of Workers] leader at Arlen Siu Port in Rama; Agapito Laguna, FSLN delegate; Armando Martinez, mob leader; and Carmen Sanchez, a member of the Sandinist mobs.

Media Access During Campaign Guaranteed

PA1504184289 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] Nicaraguan political parties will have access to both television channels throughout the election campaign.

In accordance with Article 59, which was submitted by the Nicaraguan Presidency for amendment by a special legislative commission, the Council of Political Parties [Consejo de Partidos Politicos] will be made up of the president of the Assembly of Political Parties [Asamblea de Partidos Politicos], who will preside over the council; four members, including the council's vice president, who will be selected by the Assembly of Political Parties; and five other members, including the council's secretary, who will be selected by the Legislative Assembly.

During the election campaign, the Supreme Electoral Council will guarantee that political parties or alliances will have no less than 30 minutes of air time a day on each channel of the Sandinist television network, 45 minutes a day on each of the state-owned radio stations, and 30 minutes a day on each of the privately owned radio stations.

Ortega Proposes Halting Real Estate Evictions

PA1604043989 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Communique No 13 issued by the Presidency—date not given]

[Text] President Daniel Ortega Saavedra has submitted to the National Assembly for its approval a draft bill proposing the suspension of the legal grounds for recovering real estate properties—with the exception of cases involving leaseholders—while regulations are issued to guarantee that the current occupants of houses owned by members of the former Somozist National Guard are not evicted.

It is also announced that, in exercising his legal powers, Managua's Mayor Carlos Carrion has declared the house where a health center has been installed at the Juan Emilio Menocal Neighborhood a public property, so that it can continue to be used for the benefit of the community.

Ramirez Discusses Devaluations, Inflation

PA1504145889 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Statement by Vice President Sergio Ramirez; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] The devaluations of the cordoba are part of an economic program and are very important. They have been producing the result that we wanted: to lower hyperinflation. We are achieving this goal. From 130-percent inflation in December, we have reached 20-percent inflation in March.

Initial figures indicate that we can expect inflation to be much lower than 20 percent in April.

Prices are stabilizing. We are gradually adjusting salaries. The fact that inflation is lower means that purchasing power will increase. In addition, devaluations allow exports to be more profitable.

Panama

Penalties for Muse, Accomplices Desired

PA1404204389 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 Apr 89

["Today in the World" commentary by Luis Manuel Martinez]

[Text] Today, our topic is: The United States, promoter of chaos. Before I begin, I must say that over the weekend and during the rest of the week, I have been discussing with prestigious colleagues the situation, its implications, and the objectives of the U.S. policy of producing in Panama a situation of unrest, disorder, disturbances, and bloodshed to justify to the world the U.S. claims of an imaginary fraud. We discussed this with Alberto Barrera, author of the "Hardline" column of the morning newspaper CRITICA, the most aggressive tabloid in Central America. I read the Central American papers and compared them with CRITICA, and I chose the red banner and versatility of this tabloid.

Alberto Barrera and I expressed our ideas, and many of these ideas are included in my commentary today. Attorney General Augusto Villalaz, in a news conference, left the door open with the ritual phrase: Investigations are continuing. On more than one occasion, we have seen very important issues remain unresolved as a result of that phrase. People have secretly fled to Miami, people who had had no qualms about taking action to demolish the basic structures of society.

We agree with the attorney general that Article 6, Paragraph Two, Section C, on criminal jurisdiction, indisputably provides that if an individual is arrested by Panamanian authorities, he will be turned over [to U.S. authorities], except when he is accused of homocide, rape, robbery, drug trafficking, or crimes against state security. Kurt Frederick Muse, Bosco Ricardo Vallarino, and Belinda Vallarino have committed crimes against the state. We would be unforgivably naive if we were to believe that Muse and the two Vallarinos are the only participants in the plot to sabotage the elections and to sow panic by intercepting radio and television broadcasts to make announcements from apartments located in residential areas in the capital.

We would be naive to believe that those three are working alone. Behind those three figures, particularly Mr Vallarino's hefty, somewhat elephantine figure, there are people who rented the apartments, people who signed the leases, owners who agreed to lease apartments where there were no families, where there never had been people. The apartments were always empty, and the owners knew that equipment was kept there. In short, a conservative estimate indicates that the network involved between 50 and 80 people. They must be brought to justice. It is high time for penalties, for the severity of the law to fall on those who refuse to allow the Panamanian people to vote in peace and to choose their own leaders.

It is regrettable that the U.S. Army, which has filled cemeteries all over the world with men fallen in combat, should cooperate with such plans. Against what enemy are these plans directed? When has Panama ever been an enemy? When has it ever been a threat to the security of that great power, as President Bush claimed with some cynicism, repeating his predecessor's arguments as he approved the continuation of the sanctions, or the acts of aggression, of strangulation, dictated by Ronald Reagan in April 1988?

Therefore, it is necessary to identify the technicians who installed the equipment, determine who owns the apartments and who rented them, and reveal to the public—which is suffering from this conspiracy—to women, to our mothers and our wives, the truth in the banner headlines and statements on television. We must know who are involved in this: What Americans and Panamanians. Actually, they are of the same nationality. They are wolves of the same pack. Even the slightest detail must be told, so that the people can see how far a superpower will go when it is obstinately determined to deny a stoic people their right to freedom.

Delvalle, Sosa Accused of 'Squandering' Funds

PA1704001089 Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish 16 Apr 89 p 4-C

[Unattributed report: "Proof of Eric Delvalle's and Juan Sosa's Squandering of 65 Million Balboas Belonging to the Panamanian People"]

[Text] Washington, [No date as published]—After much work, we are beginning to uncover details surrounding [President] Eric Devalle's and [Panamanian ambassador to the United States] Juan B. Sosa's squandering of 65 million balboas that belong to the Panamanian people.

These funds have been withheld by the U.S. Government as part of the economic sanctions imposed on Panama since last year.

We also obtained a document from the National Foundation for Democracy [Fundacion Nacional para la Democracia], a parastate organization with headquarters in Washington, proving the delivery of $55,000 each month to the Civic Crusade. This document clearly confirms the U.S. Government's interference in Panamanian domestic affairs. This same organization also delivers funds to the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs [Instituto Nacional Democratic para Asuntos Internationales], which is affiliated with the Civic Crusade. Delvalle and Sosa have "hired" two law firms and are paying them astronomical sums of money, all of which is coming from the funds that the U.S. Government is withholding and that belong to the Panamanian people.

The following is a breakdown of the sums of money being paid along with copies of contracts signed by Juan B. Sosa and Eric Delvalle, all of which are valid for a 6-month period.

Firms	Monthly Payments	6 Months
Williams and Connolly	70,000	420,000
Bond Donnatelli	10,000	60,000
John R. Zagame	15,000	90,000
Arnold and Porter	200,000	1,200,000
Total		B/1,770,000

[The report is accompanied by photocopies of the following English-language documents:

—Two excerpts of the National Foundation for Democracy document cited above, which read:

"NATIONAL CIVIC CRUSADE FOR PANAMA, for its program of seminars, workshops and Latin American tours designed to strengthen the Crusade's local network in Panama and to educate Panamanians and Latin American political leaders about the requirements for a transition to democracy: $55,000

"NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (NDIIA), for the development of a program to promote a democratic transition in Panama: $17,430" "YMCA OF THE USA - INTERNATIONAL DIVISION, to continue and expand its "Youth in Civic Development" program in Panama. The program, begun in 1984 with Endowment support, trains urban and rural youth in democratic political leadership through the study of the Panamanian Constitution, parliamentary procedures and government structures. Local and regional assemblies are held, and the program culminates in a youth legislative assesmbly in Panama City. (No cost cited)"

—Letters countersigned by Juan B. Sosa from John R. Zagame Associates, Inc. of Alexandria, Virginia; Law Offices of Williams & Connolly of Washington, D.C.; and Bond & Company of Alexandria, Virginia, in which these firms agree to represent the Embassy of Panama for a 6-month period for the sums of money listed above.

—U.S. Justice Department forms for the registration of agents of foreign principals in which the firm John R. Zagame Associates, Inc. registers to assist the Republic of Panama in its dealings with the U.S. Government.]

DENI Denies Participation in Eleta Case

PA1404170089 Panama City MEDIODIA in Spanish 13 Apr 89 p 2

[Excerpts] Colonel Nivaldo Madrinan, director of the National Department of Investigation (DENI), yesterday disclosed that the arrest in Georgia of industrialist Carlos Eleta, Manuel Castillo, and Juan Karamanites for conspiring to smuggle 600 kg of cocaine into the United States, was the result of an 8-month investigation.

Madrinan, in charge of the agency supervising efforts to curb drug trafficking in Panama, also said that DENI did not assist in this operation. [passage omitted]

He also criticized the U.S. authorities who presented Eleta as PALA [Labor Party] president in order to "tarnish the image of the National Liberation Coalition." It seems, he added, that the Americans "have forgotten to update their computer records."

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter said that "he did not want to venture an opinion on the Eleta case because it is in U.S. judicial hands and is not a matter for the Foreign Ministry."

"The Foreign Ministry has not released nor will it release any statements on this case," Ritter said.

Meanwhile, Guillermo Cochez, vice president of the Christian Democratic Party, tried to link Eleta's arrest with problems RPC Radio and Television have been having with the Finance Ministry.

The opposition leader said that the news had been "exploited by government media with evil political intentions."

"The truth will come to light very soon. Why should we not believe that there is a relation between both cases (Finance Ministry problems and Eleta's arrest)?" Cochez asked.

U.S. Youths Arrested for Railroad 'Sabotage'

PA1404152289 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 14 Apr 89 p 16

[Report by Antonio Graell Flores]

[Text] The arrogance of Yankee imperialism in our homeland has been proven again: A group of less than six American youths sabotaged the Panama Railroad near the Balboa train station on 12 April.

At approximately 0840 on 12 April, five American youths, sons of U.S. military men stationed in the Canal area, dug up the nails that keep the ties [polines] attached to the rails, which could have caused a derailment of incalculable consequences.

Four of these youths were arrested after already having dug up 23 nails. One of them fled. Cesar Augusto Rudas, a Panama Railroad manual laborer who works at the Balboa station, notified the area's Panama Defense Forces police station.

The case was turned over to the Children's Court because it involved youths who were less than 18 years old.

In the presence of the liaison official, the gringo youths declared themselves innocent and blamed the other gringo who escaped. They said he planned and carried out the sabotage of the Panama Railroad because his father told him the railroad and the Canal belong to the United States, not to the Panamanians.

In the wake of this criminal attack, the Railroad Guard under Lieutenant Jorge Giroldi has increased its security at all railroad stations in Panama and Colon. Giroldi said whoever is apprehended with a suspicious attitude will be severely punished, "because it is high time for the gringos to stop believing they can do as they please in our territory without respecting our laws."

Parties Hold Scheduled Political Demonstrations

PA1604044989 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] The opposition political parties of the ADOC [Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance] carried out their announced march this afternoon with all the guarantees and freedoms extended by the national government. Freedom of assembly as well as freedom of speech and the right to hold political gatherings are being exercised to the utmost by the parties and candidates aspiring to one post or another in these elections.

Yesterday, the National Liberation Coalition, COLINA, staged a gigantic motorcade that included only the five electoral districts of the capital. Observers say that over 40,000 automobiles participated. This demonstrates COLINA's clear edge over the ADOC, which mobilized its cadres from throughout the country for its political demonstration today. The march was carried out along Via Espana.

ADOC 'Attacks' Noriega

PA1404175789 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0346 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] Colon City, 13 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—Panamanian opposition candidates today stepped up their attacks against General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], whom they described as a "bandit" and an "orangutan," and whom they accused of "tarnishing our national dignity."

During a demonstration attended by thousands of Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance (ADOC) supporters in Colon City on the Caribbean coast, presidential candidate Guillermo Endara and vice presidential candidates Ricardo Arias Calderon and Guillermo Ford hurled strong accusations and insults against the regime and Noriega.

Endara accused the FDP of intimidating his supporters, adding that he believes that he will win the 7 May elections and that the present administration "will hand over to us a National Treasury in ruins."

Christian Democratic Party President Arias Calderon said Noriega "is tarnishing our national dignity," and described him as a "pig wallowing in the mud."

He reiterated charges made public in the United States that link the military chief to drug trafficking and called Carlos Duque, the proregime presidential candidate for the National Liberation Coalition (COLINA), a "white-faced monkey" and Noriega an "orangutan."

During the demonstration, Guillermo Ford, ADOC candidate for second vice president, referred to Noriega as a "bandit," adding that Noriega and Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, "have loose tongues."

He called Duque and COLINA candidates Ramon Siero and Aquilino Boyd "idiots," and said: "I only give in to my wife, but they give in to Nicaragua, Cuba, and the military."

Ford vowed to refute government and COLINA charges that the opposition candidates only respond to U.S. interests opposed to progovernment forces, which claim to represent a nationalist alternative.

Solis Palma Replies

PA1504134889 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1813 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] Panama City, 14 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—Panamanian President Manuel Solis Palma today accused the opposition of using the upcoming 7 May elections to promote violence and U.S. military intervention.

"They (the opposition leaders) want violence" and are using the election campaign to "agitate and lead the country to a confrontation so the United States will have an excuse for military intervention," Solis Palma told ACAN-EFE.

The president rejected the attacks and insults made by the opposition candidates against General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander of the Panama Defense Forces, whom the opposition has called a "bandit" and an "orangutan," among other things, during public rallies.

"Their actions during this campaign are intended to create violence in the country," Solis Palma said at the conclusion of a meeting with public officials.

The president insisted that opposition leaders want to eliminate the country's institutions, including the FDP, but he stated that this will only be achieved through "massive military intervention."

Over 1 million Panamanians will go to the polls on Sunday, 7 May, to elect their president, two vice presidents, and 67 legislators for the next 5 years.

The main presidential candidates are businessman Carlos Duque of the National Liberation Coalition (COLINA, progovernment) and lawyer Guillermo Endara of the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance (ADOC).

As election day draws near, tension is building with both sides trading strong accusations and new incidents occurring between the Solis Palma government and the United States.

50,000 Women March

PA1604122489 Paris AFP in Spanish 0345 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] Panama City, 15 Apr (AFP)—Shouting "Down with Noriega," some 50,000 women marched through the downtown area of the capital today to repudiate the Panamanian regime and to express their support for the opposition Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance (ADOC) in the upcoming general elections on 7 May.

The march, with the slogan "Trusting in Victory," covered some 14 km without incident over a period of 4 hours and concluded with a rally at the 5th of May Plaza in the western part of the Panamanian capital.

"One has to get out there and fight. Remove the thorn on 7 May," the women shouted as they waved banners and danced to carnival music while gaily beating pots and pans, the protest symbols of the opposition National Civic Crusade.

Angelica Guinard, a member of the Crusade's Executive Committee, exclaimed: "A new republic will be born on 7 May, one in which we will not fear bayonets or buckshot." For the past 2 years, the Crusade has been demanding the resignation of General Manuel Antonio Noriega, head of the Army.

Guinard challenged Gen Noriega and the proregime National Liberation Coalition, COLINA, to hold a "women's demonstration" to compare the strength of the two sides.

ADOC is supporting Guillermo Endara, an attorney, for president, while COLINA has nominated businessman Carlos Duque.

More on Women's Rally

PA1704033789 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 16 Apr 89 p 1

[Text] Thousands of Panamanian women, members or supporters of the Panama's Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance (ADOC), marched in Panama City yesterday to demand respect for the vote in the 7 May elections.

Flags of the Panamanian Authentic Liberal Party, MOLIRENA [Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement], and the Christian Democratic Movement were carried by women of all colors and from all walks of life who were demanding "justice."

The march began in front of Lourdes Church and proceeded along Via Espana, passing through the banking center and ending with a rally at the 5th of May Plaza, where ADOC's presidential and vice presidential candidates, Guillermo Endara, Ricardo Arias Calderon, and Guillermo Ford, addressed the marchers.

Gisela Chung and Cecilia Alegre, candidates for legislative posts for electoral districts 8-6 and 8-8 respectively, also spoke at the rally. Chung said San Miguelito [a low-income section of Panama City] learned its lesson, and for that reason it will wage its struggle against the national government and the COLINA [National Liberation Coalition] candidates. She requested close supervision of voting procedures on 7 May.

Cecilia Alegre said that on 7 May, the Panamanian people will say that they have had enough of this corruption.

ADOC presidential candidate Guillermo Endara recalled late Panamanian President Arnulfo Arias' ideas and actions that placed women in a seat of honor.

Endara promised that "in the government that will be inaugurated on 1 September, we will have female ministers, female mayors and governors, as well as female directors of autonomous and semiautonomous state institutions."

Arias Calderon praised the political role women have been playing, and, in referring to a COLINA political advertisement, Arias said that Panamanian women have shown that they do know how to choose [their candidates] well.

Arias said that although women work twice as much—at work and at home—they are here to demand justice. The opposition leader reiterated that the only way to win a fight is by fighting.

Gillermo Ford said that on 7 May, we will go to the polls and shout at them: It is all over!

ADOC announced that it will hold a rally in San Miguelito on 1 May, Labor Day, and that it will conclude its campaign on 3 May with a large rally outside El Carmen Church beginning at 1400.

Opposition Demands Fair Elections

PA1604135389 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0141 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] Panama City, 15 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—Opposition presidential candidate Guillermo Endara today warned the military not to dare go "against the will of the people" during the 7 May elections because "we are going to defend our victory."

Endara issued this warning to 50,000 female supporters, according to figures supplied by rally organizers. He spoke following a Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance (ADOC) demonstration that took place on Panama City's main avenue. The demonstration was called the "March of Civic Women."

Endara was accompanied by his two vice presidential candidates, Ricardo Arias Calderon and Guillermo Ford. Endara said that this demonstration made it clear that Panamanian women want a "new fatherland" based on "democracy and equality."

In his speech, Christian Democratic Party President Ricardo Arias Calderon said that Panamanian women "know who to choose," have decided to support "the true democrats," and have rejected the "cowards," who, according to him, are represented by Panama Defense Forces Commander General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Arias Calderon noted that Panamanian women "have demonstrated their courage" and are fighting those who have tried "to stain their honor as women at the hands of the dictator."

Guillermo Ford, ADOC's second vice presidential candidate, referred to Noriega and Panamanian President Manuel Solis Palma as "bums," and said that "their machismo will soon run out." Ford said that "once it takes power," the opposition will dedicate itself to building "a new fatherland."

The ADOC candidates will face the progovernment National Liberation Coalition headed by Carlos Duque, a businessman and a friend of General Noriega, in the 7 May elections.

During the festive march, there were no incidents and no police presence.

Salary, 13th-Month Bonus Payments Scheduled

PA1504142189 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 14 Apr 89 pp 1, 14

[Report by Alberto Henriquez Garay]

[Text] Minister in charge of the Presidency Manuel Solis Palma answered the questions of many public employees when he announced that the government will pay the first part of the 13th-month bonus, which is due in April, and April's first biweekly salary payment today, Friday.

The president of all Panamanians made this announcement yesterday at La Huaca Hall in the Atlapa Convention Center, where he attended a meeting with ministers, deputy ministers, directors, deputy directors, and heads of departments of the health sector, including the National Water Works and Sanitation Institute, the Metropolitan Sanitation Directorate, and the Finance and Treasury Ministry.

"We will, in fact, pay the first part of the 13th-month bonus, because this is a commitment we have to all public employees," Solis Palma said, pointing out that representatives of the National Federation of Associations of Public Employees, the Coordinating Board of the State Workers Unions, and the executive branch are analyzing the most convenient way to make this first payment "because this is a commitment that we must meet."

Concerning the biweekly salary payments, which were delayed a few days for several months, the president said that this was being done to guarantee that checks would only be issued when they had the necessary backing.

"Inasmuch as the government's revenue have been improving, we will make this payment—on time—on Friday the 14th," he said.

President Solis Palma told those attending the meeting that the integration of the health sector is indispensable, because we must provide health care to all Panamanians at the lowest cost possible.

Among the conclusions of the positive dialogue held yesterday at Atlapa was that thanks to the work, effort, and—in many cases—sacrifice of government health workers, we have achieved great improvements in all aspects of public health.

Solis: 'Unjustly' Fired Workers To Be Rehired
PA1504160789 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] At a meeting with midlevel officials of the government's commerce sector at Atlapa Convention Center, Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, has stated that public servants who have been unjustly dismissed will be reinstated.

Official Says No Approval of 'Information Office'
PA1604160989 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] A high-ranking official of Panama's Electoral Tribunal has expressed surprise at international reports announcing the installation of an international news center in Panama that would presumably help newsmen and observers cover or watch the Panamanian elections.

Electoral Tribunal magistrate Luis Carlos Chen said the tribunal has not authorized any foreign organization to install any kind of office in our country. He added that all matters related to the installation or operation of information centers in Panama are under the jurisdiction of the Government and Justice Ministry.

Magistrate Chen also said the Electoral Tribunal has officially invited the members of the Tikal agreement—Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala, St Lucia, Jamaica, and Antigua and Barbuda—to send observers to the 7 May elections.

Moreover, the Electoral Tribunal official recalled that the Presidency of the Republic recently issued a communique in which it endorsed the decision to accredit only representatives of member countries of the Tikal agreement as observers.

Regarding the international news reports announcing the installation of an alleged international information office, the SNI [National Information System] questioned a high-ranking Government and Justice Ministry source who denied knowing about this office and made it clear that it has not been authorized.

Businessmen Reiterate Goals at CADE 89
PA1604193289 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 15 Apr 89 pp A-1, A-10

[Report by Claudio Herrera J.]

[Excerpt] The 23d Annual Conference of Business Executives, CADE 89, opened in Panama City yesterday with the slogan "1989: A Challenge to Democracy." In his opening speech, Jose Raul Mulino, acting president of the Panamanian Association of Business Executives, APEDE, said that "we continue working toward getting the Republic of Panama back onto the path of what is known as a democratic, representative, and institutional system."

In a message sent from Venezuela that was read during the ceremony, APEDE President Roberto Brenes said that far from solving our differences, Panamanians have suffered continuous unrest.

Six people, including Venezuelan Senator Wolfgang Larrazabal and ADOC [Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance] Presidential Candidate Guillermo Endara, will deliver speeches during this annual event taking place at the Riande Continental Airport Hotel.

In his welcoming speech, Jose Raul Mulino said that "we decided to use the same slogan for CADE 89 as we did in 1984 [the year of the last presidential elections] because, in our opinion, we are still trying to bring the Republic of Panama back onto the path of what is known as a democratic, representative and institutional system."

Mulino noted that in analyzing the solutions proposed by CADE during the past 22 years, some are still valid, and, in some cases, it is as if time had stood still.

In that regard, Mulino recalled that the subject of employment as a priority factor for development was analyzed during CADE 73, and that various topics concerning the vital role that private enterprise plays in development were discussed during CADE 74, 75, 76, 78, and 87.

Mulino stressed that the participants in CADE 87 analyzed with great patriotism matters concerning the Panama Canal, Panamanian-U.S. relations, and the importance of the Panama Canal for Panama's economic and social development. He noted that this topic was viewed with the belief that the canal belongs to all Panamanians, that it must be under our total control by the year 2000 with administrative and operational matters based on efficiency, honesty, competence, and professionalism in a country ruled by a de jure, free, independent and sovereign state.

Mulino said that for 30 years during its annual conferences, the private sector has actively sought solutions for the most urgent national problems. He added: I am sure we will continue that tradition in the future.

Regarding CADE 89, Mulino said a question that should be answered is the reason for the lack of confidence that exists at all levels in both the public and private sectors.

Panama is currently facing a serious political problem that we could see coming a long time ago and that was even predicted by renowned Panamanian politicians, Mulino stressed. This problem, he added, has greatly interfered with the handling of our economic and social problems.

Father Fernando Guardia Jaen, pastoral vicar of the Archdiocese of Panama, read the invocation. Regarding the upcoming 7 May elections, he said, "We should all do our part so the people's hopes and aspirations are not thwarted."

Father Guardia urged political parties to respect the people's will expressed at the polls, stressing that the country "is facing a crucial time."

Meanwhile, Venezuelan Senator Wolfgang Larrazabal presented a chronology of the democratization process in his country. Larrazabal, a military man, was once commander of the Venezuelan Navy. [passage omitted].

Editorial Praises Church Communique on Elections

PA1604184589 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 15 Apr 89 p A-4

[Editorial: "The Episcopal Conference's Timely Statement"]

[Text] A few days ago, the leaders of the Panamanian Episcopal Conference [CEP] held a news conference to read a communique, which we feel is very timely and sensible, on the upcoming elections. The communique calls for prudence among the groups that are struggling to win the 7 May elections, and warns that due to the crucial times we are experiencing, the elections are the last opportunity we have for solving our differences through peaceful means. The Catholic Church's opportune message says that the political parties and the candidates should start developing an awareness of their historical responsibility and set aside all verbal abuse and violence and provide the Panamanian people with an opportunity to mature in a civic and political manner to accept the legitimate will of the voters.

In this message to all Catholics, the CEP warns of the foreign pressure—both economic and ideological—that is meddling in our affairs and that has contributed to worsening the crisis, dividing our people, and deteriorating the political and social strength of the fatherland. The communique says these pressures unfortunately continue and run the risk of negatively affecting the election process, which began in the middle of last year and led to a hope for a peaceful and democratic solution to the chaotic situation that the nation has endured since the last elections.

The communique issued by this Catholic organization undoubtedly represents a voice of hope for all Panamanians in these times of uncertainty and great political activity. It should be carefully analyzed by the various groups who are fighting for the right to run the nation for the next 5 years. The points made by the CEP leaders are opportune, because without supporting any party, they are demanding impartial, honest, democratic, and just elections. The leaders of the our Catholic people have every right to urge the political parties to strengthen the people's hopes through positive, constructive means, with fewer attacks and more programs and plans for the future of Panama. Very little of this has happened yet during the campaign.

The statement by the leaders of our Catholic Church is a message of national harmony geared toward the discussion of a government plan that will seek, as the basis of future social peace, true social justice with national sovereignty and real and effective democracy. Only in this manner, as the communique says, can we have an honest and true vote from each Panamanian, according to his own conscience. In a few weeks, the most important election in the history of the Republic will be held, and positions such as the one voiced by the CEP are encouraging and extremely just. The political leaders and the Panamanian people in general must consider it in this manner.

Argentina

New Economy Ministry Measures Summarized

PY1404180789 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1140 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Apr (DYN)—The government has decided to adjust utility rates, to establish a sole and free foreign exchange market subject to supply and demand, and to impose foreign exchange witholdings on all exports. These are some of the measures announced by the Economy Ministry, which is trying to control the foreign exchange and financial markets and the rampant inflation.

Following is a summary of the economic measures announced:

Foreign exchange market activities will be suspended on Friday, 14 April, (all foreign currency transactions are prohibited) and the exchange houses will reopen on Monday, 17 April. Banks will operate normally, but they will not exchange foreign currency.

As of Monday, 17 April, all foreign currency transactions that have been handled so far through the official foreign exchange market will be carried out through a free market "without any exception." Therefore, the dollar and other currency exchange rates will be subject to supply and demand.

The agriculture, livestock, and industrial sectors will benefit from a fluctuating export tax which will be implemented immediately and which will be established according to the dollar exchange rate and a "reference value" to be set by the Economy Ministry. For a start this reference value will be fixed at 36 australes.

Utility rates will be increased by 14 percent, in addition to the 9-percent average increase implemented at the beginning of April. Consequently, utility rates will experience an accumulated increase of approximately 25 percent during April. The increase for liquid and gaseous fuel is even greater, averaging approximately 16 percent with an accumulative monthly increase of between 16.5 and 27.5 percent.

The Commerce Secretariat will draw up the mechanism to control and adjust prices, which must be based on increased costs. It was asserted that there will be no price freeze.

In the public and private sectors, salaries will continue to be subject to the agreements reached through collective bargaining or through labor-management arbitration boards; that is, they will be set through negotiations between union leaders and employers. The salaries of public servants, which are not covered by collective bargaining, will continue to be handled through "those channels currently used for this purpose"; that is, the Public Servants' Commission for Salary Affairs. Adjustments and salary increases for this latter sector have until now been established by an Executive Branch decree; however, nothing was said in this respect.

Menem Vows 'Diplomatic Battle' for Falklands

PY1504221089 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1503 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 15 Apr (EFE)—Justicialist Party presidential candidate Carlos Menem promised that if he wins the elections, he will wage "a firm diplomatic battle" to recover sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands. Argentina has claimed sovereignty over these islands since 1833.

Menem spoke last night [14 April] to ambassadors of American countries during a ceremony marking the Day of the Americas. On that occasion he stated that "the British usurpation of the Malvinas Islands must cease," adding that "we will not stop our efforts to recover what belongs to us."

The Justicialist Party candidate said: "Our administration will continue the diplomatic battle; we do not understand why a problem which is not part of the East-West conflict cannot be solved."

Speaking about the South Atlantic conflict that led to a war between Argentina and Great Britain in 1982 during which some 1,000 people on both sides died, Menem said that Argentina is right and that "right will prevail."

He added that "even though we are suffering from the irregular and unfair situation in connection with the Malvinas Islands, we firmly believe that peace is the supreme issue."

Menem noted that the conflict over the Malvinas Islands "generates tensions in the hemisphere" and stated that "the scourge" of the drug trade must be "eradicated" from Latin America. [passage omitted]

Jaunarena on Politics, Israeli Negotiations

TA0704203389 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 7 Apr 89 p 22

[Report on interview with Defense Minister Dr Jose Horacio Jaunarena by Shlomo Slutzky; date and place not given]

[Text] When Argentine Defense Minister Dr Jose Horacio Jaunarena left on a business trip to Israel, he already knew that by the following day the newspapers would report the resignation of the Alfonsin government's economic cabinet. It was to be expected, due to a monthly 20-percent rate of inflation, a 300-percent hike in the value of the U.S. dollar, a tremendous erosion in income for most of the people, and the presidential elections due to take place in a month, on 14 May. This will be the first time in 40 years that a democratic

government in Argentina will complete its term in office. According to all the polls, the next government will be formed by Carlos Menem, a Peronist of Arab descent.

Jaunarena is the third defense minister in Alfonsin's government. Toward the end of his trip to Israel, there was a sudden spate of media items about cooperation between Argentina and Iraq on the construction of a long-range missile and Argentina's delivery of a nuclear reactor to Algeria.

Jaunarena says: "If you trace the source of these reports, you will discover that they lead to the British Foreign Office. There is not a kernel of truth in the two charges you mentioned. It is no coincidence that these reports reached Israel from British sources, and just at this time. We are talking about a psychological war directed by Britain against Argentina."

[Slutzky] Was a deal signed for Israeli Kfir jets in exchange for Argentine submarines?

[Jaunarena] We agreed to continue the negotiations on procuring a number of Kfir fighter jets. At the same time, the possibility of the Israeli Navy buying Argentine submarines is also being examined. We have decided to send a few Argentine Pampa trainer aircraft to be tested by your pilots before going through with the purchases.

[Slutzky] What do you need weapons for at all?

[Jaunarena] Only for defensive purposes. Argentina has regional problems that compel it to maintain a certain level of readiness.

[Slutzky] Alfonsin once spoke of reducing the Army.

[Jaunarena] Certainly. While we recruited 100,000 soldiers annually until 1983, today, despite the growth in population, we only draft 30,000. We have cut the defense budget down from 4 percent to 1.8 percent of the GNP.

[Slutzky] Carlos Menem has already declared that Argentina will reclaim the Falkland Islands, "no matter how much blood will flow."

[Jaunarena] You must ask Menem himself about this statement. We in the Radical Civic Union have no plans for a new war in the area.

[Slutzky] But Menem will probably be president.

[Jaunarena] It is still too early to make predictions. The gap between Menem and the Radical Civic Union candidate has recently narrowed to 7 percent, and 30 percent of the voters are still undecided. Most of the undecided voters voted for the Radical Civic Union in 1983. They will swing the vote this time as well. I believe that the reshuffle in the economic cabinet gives rise to new hope.

[Slutzky] Does it not actually constitute an admission of failure in economic policy?

[Jaunarena] Even if that were so, accepting criticism and admitting failure show intelligence. Only an idiot refuses to admit failure.

[Slutzky] Would you not say that the formation of the Argentine National Security Council, involving the three branches of the military, spells a reversal of the process of cutting back on the Army's authority?

[Jaunarena] Not at all. This is only an advisory council to the president, not a body that can make decisions.

[Slutzky] This body was set up following an armed operation by a left-wing group. This operation was forcibly squashed by the security forces, the same forces that have taken such an indulgent attitude to the recurrent attempts by Army officers to overthrow the government over the last 2 years.

[Jaunarena] Those mutinies were an internal Army matter that the Army had to handle, while the other matter was a clandestine leftist organization which threatened national security. The National Security Council's task is to advise on means to combat such phenomena.

[Slutzky] Many doubt the possibility that Carlos Menem could head a democratic government. He is known for his connections with the Army personnel who took part in the recent attempts at toppling the government. Do you feel Argentina is mature enough to preserve its democracy, even in the event of a different party assuming power?

[Jaunarena] I can only assure the path of my own party. It is obvious that the Argentine people are ready for democracy.

Crespo on Condor Project, Armed Forces' Role

PY1404194489 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1346 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 14 Apr (TELAM)—Air Force Chief of Staff Brigadier General Ernesto Crespo has said that "in the last few years, the members of the military have changed a lot and they have been reitegrated into society." He also categorically rejected the possibility that "the Armed Forces will take part in an eventual coup d'etat."

He also denied that there is any connection between the negotiations he and Defense Minister Jaunarena carried out during their recent trip aboard and the halting of the development of the so-called Condor project. Crespo said that "the issue was not discussed in any of the countries we visited (Israel, the FRG, and Spain)."

He expressed his concern over the fact that "the Argentine media is responsible for discussing this issue, which should be decided strictly by Argentines."

Crespo said that with this news report—according to which Israel will lift the embargo on the delivery of planes purchased by Argentina if Argentina drops the Condor project—"we are informing the world about a nonexistent situation."

For several years Argentina has been developing a prototype called Condor II, a medium-range rocket used to place satellites in orbit 500 km from earth. Iraq and Egypt are cooperating in this project.

Answering a question, Crespo said: "I do not believe the Armed Forces will ever take part in a coup d'etat, because the Armed Forces have learned a lesson the hard way: To be rejected by your society is something terrible."

He asserted that the military "has been reitegrated into society. They seriously believe that the country must find a political solution to pull it out of the crisis. The military must help to find this solution because it is part of Argentine society." [passage omitted]

Israel To Deliver Spare Parts for Planes

PY1404190389 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2035 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Apr (NA)—Government sources have revealed that within the next 6 months Israel will deliver spare parts and equipment for Navy airplanes, thus compensating for the 12 "Skyhawk" A-4-Q worth about $600 million that are being held as a result of the Malvinas War.

An Israeli military commission will begin in the next few days to evaluate the cost and the capabilities of the Argentine IA-63 Pampa advanced training airplane and the possibility of buying that aircraft.

An Argentine commission will also study the Israeli "Super Kfir" airplane with a view to equipping the Air Force with that type of aircraft.

The two commissions have already been established and the Israeli Air Force chief of staff will arrive in Argentina within 60 days as part of this double operation.

Noticeable progress was made in the negotiations for the sale of the Pampa and the purchase of the Kfir airplanes during Defense Minister Horacio Jaunarena's visit to Tel Aviv, where he met his Israeli counterpart, Yitzhak Rabin. On this occasion Jaunarena also discussed the possibility of selling the submarines being built in the Domeq Garcia shipyard.

Two Pampa airplanes, probably the same ones that were shown in the United States, will fly to Tel Aviv within the next 30 days for demonstrations.

Regarding the purchase of the Kfir airplanes, Argentina has made the following proposal:

That the Kfir airplanes will be purchased on the basis of the sales to Israel of Pampa airplanes.

That assurances will be given that the operation will not be obstructed by a negative U.S. attitude.

That the Kfir airplanes will not be supplied with U.S.-made engines, but perhaps with French-made engines. Argentine experts believe that it is preferable to have U.S.-made engines because they believe that the U.S. Government has basically changed its position over the sale of military materiel.

To demonstrate this point, a high official source revealed that the reequipping of M-113 armored vehicles and helicopters with U.S. spare parts is being completed.

However, if the U.S. Government does not allow the sale of the Israeli airplanes with U.S. engines, the Israeli Air Force can supply the airplanes with other engines.

Regarding the 12 "Skyhawk" A-4-Q airplanes purchased by the Navy that were retained by Israel in 1982, it has been confirmed that compensation for these will be made before the end of this year.

Israel will supply Argentina with spare parts and equipment for six anti-submarine aircraft [words indistinct] of the aircraft carrier that needs to be re-equipped.

Regarding the Pampa airplane, it has been learned that Minister Jaunarena has progressed in the negotiations with the German firm Dornier, which is licensed to build the Pampa. This association may lead to sales of the airplane to the United States or to other NATO countries.

The association with the German firm will open the door for sales to European countries, especially the FRG, if the U.S. Government decides to purchase the Pampa (it plans to renew its stock in 1992).

An expert explained that the use of airspace is a delicate subject in Europe and that therefore military pilots of various countries are being sent to the United States for training.

If the U.S. Government purchases the Pampa airplane, progress will be made in unifying training techniques, which in turn will represent greater sales.

Moreover, if the U.S. Government orders (?400 airplanes), Argentina would not have the capability to fill the order, but the association with Dornier would solve that problem.

Argentina has two strong competitors: Italy, with the Aer Macchi, and Switzerland, with Pilatus. Both aircraft cost about the same.

Regarding submarines, Argentina has proposed selling some of those that are under construction in the Argentine shipyard to Israel, but "under no circumstance," said an official source, would they be "exchanged" for the Kfir aircraft.

Israel wants to buy from the FRG the same type of submarines that are being constructed in Argentina. The source indicated, however, that the meeting on this issue was a "first approach."

It has also been reported that negotiations will soon start with Spain on the repair of the Recalada floating bridge, where naval experts are trained.

Argentina and Spain also plan to build an armored troop carrier vehicle. Argentina will produce the traction and Spain the turrets.

Brazil

Armed Forces Promotions Announced

PY1404140089 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 6 Apr 89 p 40

[Text] President Jose Sarney has approved the following promotions in the Armed Forces:

Army

To division general: Antenor de Santa Cruz Abreu and Alberto dos Santos Lima Fajardo; to brigadier general: Antonio Carlos Bittencourt de Andrade, Flamario Carvalho de Oliveira, Romulo Nunes Camargo, and Delio de Assis Monteiro; to brigadier general of the Engineering Corps: Caio Marcio Nogueira Neder; to colonel: Francisco Pinto dos Santos Filho, Agnaldo del Nero Augusto, Luiz Henrique Abreu de Moraes, Arby Ilgo Rech, Murillo Neves Tavares da Silva, Paulo Ricardo Naumann, Paulo Batista Lima, Piero Ludovico Gobato, Sady Guilherme Schmidt, Nilton Moreira Rodrigues, Gilberto Fernando Alfama Bandeira, and Antonio Machado Borges; to colonel of the Engineering Corps: Celso de Castro Scofield; and to colonel quartermaster: Julio Ferreira Fernandes.

Navy

Vice Admiral Joao Baptista Paoliello was promoted to squadron admiral; Rear Admirals Augusto Cesar da Silveira Carvalhedo and Domingos Alfredo Silva were promoted to vice admiral. The following captains were promoted to rear admiral: Edgar Hargreaves de Carvalho, Alvaro Luiz Barros Millen, and Mario Augusto de Camargo Ozorio. The following promotions were approved in the Marine Corps: Rear Admiral Fernando do Nascimento was promoted to vice admiral; Captains Eugenio do Carmo Ribeiro and Edesio Camamille Neves Araripe were promoted to rear admiral. The following appointments to posts requiring advanced military studies were also made: Squadron Admiral Mario Cesar Flores to chief of staff of the Navy; Squadron Admiral Joao Baptista Paoliello, to director general of the Navy Materiel Department; Vice Admiral Hernani Goulart Fortuna, to commander of the 1st Naval District; Vice Admiral Carlos Eduardo Cezar de Andrade, to chief of staff for naval operations; Vice Admiral Augusto Cesar da Silveira Carvalhedo, to deputy chief of staff of the Navy; Vice Admiral Domingos Alfredo Silva, to director for civil projects of the Navy; Vice Admiral Fernando do Nascimento, to commander of the Marine Corps; Rear Admiral Roberto de Oliveira Coimbra, to commander of the Countertorpedo Force; Rear Admiral Carlos Augusto Bastos de Oliveira, to chairman of the Sao Paulo Naval Commission; Rear Admiral Sergio Tasso Vasques de Aquino, to commander of the Submarine Force; Rear Admiral Luiz Philippe da Costa Fernandes, to director of hydrography and navigation; Rear Admiral Waldemar Nicolau Canellas Jr, to commander of the Frigate Force; Rear Admiral Ruy Barcellos Caietti, to commander of the Support Force; Rear Admiral Carlos Edmundo de Lacerda Freire, to commander of the Almirante Wandenrola Training Center; Rear Admiral Arlindo Vianna Filho, to chief of staff of the office of the squadron commander in chief; Rear Admiral Sergio Martins Ribeiro, to commander of the Naval Control Unit of Maritime Traffic; Rear Admiral Carlos Frederico Vasconcellos da Silva, to commander of the Air Naval Force; Rear Admiral Luiz Fernandes, to naval commander of Brasilia; Rear Admiral Francisco Domingues Marinho Filho, to commander of the Graca Aranha Training Center; Rear Admiral Edgar Hargreaves de Carvalho, to deputy chief of naval operations; Rear Admiral Alvaro Luiz Barros Millen, to deputy chief of staff of the Navy; Rear Admiral Mario Augusto de Camargo Ozorio, to deputy chief of naval operations; Rear Admiral Lindberg Campos da Silva, to commander of the Amphibious Division; Rear Admiral Eugenio do Carmo Ribeiro, to chief of staff of the Marine Corps; and Rear Admiral Edesio Camamille Neves Araripe, to commander of the Marine Corps Instruction and Training Center.

Air Force

Lieutenant Brigadier Cherubim Rosa Filho, to chief of EMAER [Air Force General Staff]; Lieutenant Brigadier Socrates da Costa Monteiro, to chief of COMGAR [Air General Command]; Lieutenant Brigadier Marcio Terezino Drummond, to chief of COMGEP [General Personnel Command]; Lieutenant Brigadier Humberto Zignago Fiuza, to chief of COMGAP [General Logistic Support Command]; Lieutenant Brigadier Lelio Viana Lobo, to director general of DEPED [Department of Research and Development]; Lieutenant Brigadier Pedro Ivo Seixas, to chief of DEPAC [Department of Civil Aviation]; Major Brigadier Amilcar Ferrari Alves, to head of the 6th COMAR [Air Command]; Major Brigadier Sergio Luiz Burger, to vice chief of DEPAC; Major Brigadier Lino Pereira, to chief of COMTA [Air Transport Command]; Major Brigadier Luiz Antonio Martins Leomil, to head of the 7th COMAR; Major Brigadier Fernando Cesar de Oliveira, to deputy chief of EMAER; Major Brigadier Eumenes Cysne, to director of DIRSA

[Air Force Directorate of Health]; Brigadier Sidney Obino Azambuja, to commander of the 2d FAT [Air Transport Force]; Brigadier Marcus Herndl, to chief of CPO [Officers Promotion Commission] Secretariat; Medical Corps Brigadier Flavio Rizzo Braga, to director of HCA [Air Force Central Hospital]; Brigadier Wilson Freitas do Valle, to deputy director of DEPAC operations; Brigadier Othon Chouin Monteiro, to chief of the COMGAP General Staff; Medical Corps Brigadier Roberto Carvalho da Motta Teixeira, to director of CEMAL [Center of Aerospace Medicine]; Engineering Corps Brigadier Jose Armando Varao Monteiro, to deputy director for ground suport of DIRENG [Directorate of Engineering]; Brigadier Italo Regis Pinto, to chief of the COMGEP General Staff; Brigadier Sergio Xavier Ferolla, to deputy director of operations of DEPV [Department of Flight Safety]; Brigadier Sergio Luiz Millon, to deputy administrative director of DEPV; Medical Corps Colonel Francisco Rosenelio de Carvalho, to director of HFAB [Brazilian Air Force Hospital]; and Colonel Ercio Braga, to director of PAMA-AF [Aeronautical Logistics Park of Afonsos-Rio de Janeiro].

Chile

Stange Vows Public Order 'at Any Price'

PY1404040489 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] Chilean Carabineros will maintain public order at any price. This was stated by Carabineros Director General Rodolfo Stange after attending the funeral for noncommissioned officer Juan Carlos Amash Iturrieta in San Felipe. The Carabineros chief added that the human rights of Amash and the dead civilian demand justice.

[Begin recording] [Stange] I think that the human rights of the civilian who died, of the wounded civilians and Carabineros, and of noncommissioned officer Amash demand justice. They demand quick justice which, according to our laws—valid for more than 100 years—should demand the maximum sentence.

[Reporter] General, why do you think violence is increasing?

[Stange] The increase in violence is relative and this is a circumstancial case. This had not happened in a long time. We have not had an attack against Carabineros, who are the representatives of society and defenders of its rights. I deeply regret that some people still do not understand that we are speaking of living in peace and trying to form a society with the consensus of everyone. I cannot understand these murderers, loose in the streets.

[Reporter] The opposition sustains that this increase in violence is due to the Army's support for the president of the Republic.

[Stange] It has nothing to do with that. Excuse me for laughing at that idea, but it is just not so. That has nothing to do with it; one thing is not connected to the other. If that were the case, we should reconsider many other attacks we suffered for applying the law in the past. No, these are people who do not deserve to live in our society. These people are carrying out attacks now.

[Reporter] How does this attack affect the process of transition to democracy in Chile?

[Stange] I was referring to that. There seem to be people interested in preventing this transition process. It seems that there is a will to undermine the people's liberty. The Carabineros are dedicated to maintaining public order at any price. [end recording]

As for the attack that took place in Talca, Gen Stange said that it was planned in three stages:

[Begin Stange recording] We must clearly distinguish the three stages in this attack. The first stage, if I can call it that, is when the group of criminals agreed to go to the city of Talca, since they are not from Talca. That means that they agreed to commit a crime. Fate has allowed the Carabineros to carry out control operations according to the law, but this prompted these criminals, who are outlaws, to immediately shoot the representatives of society and justice.

In the second stage—or actually the second part of the first stage—besides shooting the noncommissioned officer, one of the criminals continued shooting. He wounded two other Carabineros members, and then another, and then seven civilians. Civilians should not be exposed to those murderers on the streets. [end recording] [no third stage as heard]

The Carabineros chief thanked the San Felipe community for the sympathy expressed in the funeral for noncommissioned officer Amash Iturrieta.

Police Provide Details on Arrested Terrorists

PY1504004989 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] The terrorists who were arrested after having murdered a Carabineros noncommissioned officer in Talca confessed to also having participated in the attack against the president of the Republic in Cajon del Maipo in September 1986. It was also proved that one of the weapons used in the murder of noncommissioned officer Juan Carlos Amash Iturrieta was obtained from the attack on the Los Quenes police post in October 1988. This means that they are active members of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front, the armed branch of the proscribed Communist Party.

An official communique from the Carabineros chief's office in the third central zone reports that one officer and one civilian died in the terrorist attacks in Talca and in Itague, while six Carabineros and seven civilians were seriously wounded.

As for the identity of the two subversives, the communique states that they are Juan Andres Ordenes Narvaes, 23, single, a mechanic, alias Daniel; and Hector Washington Maturana Uruzua, 22, single, unemployed, alias Axel.

Both detainees arrived in Talca on 11 April and met downtown, where police found them. In May 1987, after having participated in serveral subversive activities, Ordenes Narvaes traveled to Cuba, where he was trained in shooting.

Errazuriz Comments on Grape Incident, Results
PY1404145889 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2135 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] Santiago, 13 Apr (EFE)—Chilean Foreign Minister Hernan Felipe Errazuriz said today that the crisis experienced by his country 1 month ago, when U.S. markets for Chilean fruits were closed after cyanide was found in a shipment of Chilean grapes, has been virtually overcome.

Errazuriz made this comment today during a breakfast meeting with members of the National Press Association, which is made up of the owners and editors of the main Chilean dailies and magazines.

Errazuriz said: "As a result of this crisis, we were able to establish that we did not have enough knowledge or experience to deal with various aspects of the situation that resulted from the poisoned grapes."

He added that meetings with U.S. officials clearly established that talks can lead to possibilities other than the abrupt stoppage of Chilean exports. Talks can therefore prevent serious damage to agriculture.

Errazuriz said that a firm commitment was not reached, that talks will be held, and that recommendations from multilateral organizations will probably be received.

Errazuriz added that an internal security plan has been established and that this plan has undoubtedly helped persuade the United States and other countries that buy Chilean fruits to lift the restrictions.

The crisis showed that international financial organizations should review their mechanism of compensatory payment for each export, because that mechanism only considered the possibility of price drops in the international markets.

Errazuriz indicated that Chile received many expressions of solidarity over the fruit crisis. These include the support expressed by Argentine President Raul Alfonsin, whom Errazuriz met during an official visit last week.

Errazuriz added that in addition to the expressions of solidarity, "which were many and which I value," Chile also showed the ability to react to the crisis "quickly and effectively."

Lawyer Blames 'U.S. Agents' in Grape Incident
PY1504034089 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] Attorney Ricardo Claro voluntarily testified on the grape poisoning case. Judge Domingo Yurak, in charge of investigating the case that jolted the country and had widespread international repercussions, heard Claro's testimony. Tomas Rojas reports from Valparaiso.

[Begin recording] [Rojas] We will ask Ricardo Claro, a Chilean lawyer and businessman who has been investigating the grape poisoning affair since the beginning, what he can tell us about his testimony.

[Claro] First, I have to make clear that I have come to testify voluntarily. I got in touch with the minister [not further identified] to ask him when he wanted me to testify. He scheduled my testimony for today and here I am. I have said everything I could to help the investigation of the case. I cannot give you any details because of the professional secrecy code. I am here as a lawyer. I am working together with lawyers in the United States representing many producers affected by the U.S. ban. We are still investigating, but we have advanced a lot. We have a lot of evidence to support our case. We will file a legal suit in the United States in a reasonable amount of time to clarify this unprecedented incident.

[Rojas] Mr Claro, you have defended the Chilean position from the very beginning. Can you maintain everything you have said up to now?

[Claro] My investigations after what I said on television have fully confirmed my belief that U.S. agents planned and contracted this terrorist action.

[Rojas] Mr Claro, what is your opinion on the lifting of the U.S. ban and the resumption of legal action?

[Claro] This is totally hypocritical. On one hand they want to ingratiate themselves with the Chilean people, who have repudiated this terrorist act and see very clearly who is to blame for the incident. On the other hand they want to help Californian producers by proceeding with the case a few days before we begin what is called shipping without order. In this particular case the United States had at least the moral duty to postpone their action against us because we are still a developing country.

U.S. Ambassador Charles Gillespie said at a sugar mill in Tolmihue earlier in the week that his country has done a lot of thinking about the state of relations with the Chilean Government. [end recording]

Committee Formed To Relieve 'Wine Crisis'
PY1404142289 Santiago Radio Cooperative Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] Jorge Prado, president of the National Agricultural Association [SNA], has said that a ministerial committee will reportedly be created to solve the serious wine crisis. The committee will be made up of officials from the Ministry of the Interior, the Finance Ministry, and the Central Bank.

The wine crisis has reportedly been aggravated because more table grapes have been used to produce wine. The SNA directors have met with Agriculture Minister Jaime de la Sotta to discuss some pending matters.

Referring to the refusal by the U.S. Administration to postpone the deadline for marketing wine—that is, the deadline for selling Chilean grapes prior to the U.S. grape harvest—Prado stated:

[Begin Prado recording] It is perfectly possible to postpone this deadline for a week or 10 days, and this would certainly help us solve our problem. It would seem logical to postpone the deadline to help solve the tremendous crisis generated by the problems of which you are all aware. Unfortunately, the deadline has not been postponed. Today I want to express my dissatisfaction over the failure to achieve this measure. [end recording]

Prado concluded by saying that an international call for bids will be opened on Monday to sell a stock of 10,000 tons of rice from last year's harvest. He said that this has prompted a tremendous drop in prices on the Chilean market.

UN Concern Over South Africa Ties 'Regretted'
PY1404145189 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 2300 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Report from the Foreign Ministry by Carmen Castro]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry today regretted that the president of the United Nations Special Committee Against Apartheid has voiced his concern over an alleged strengthening of military ties between Chile and South Africa. This information was released by Foreign Ministry official spokesman Carlos Ducci.

Ducci said that we are offically responding to the concern expressed by this international organization. It must be noted that the United Nations has expressed concern over the strengthening of military ties between Chile and South Africa in a special communique released by Joseph Garba, the president of the United Nations Special Committee Against Apartheid. The communique again called upon the Chilean Government to respect the desire of the international community and to stop military and other types of cooperation with the racist South African regime.

The UN organization said that reports have been received which state that if the G-5 cannon is assembled in Chile, then shells for it will be supplied by South Africa in accordance with a cooperation agreement signed between these two respective enterprises.

The UN Special Committee Against Apartheid also mentioned duplicity in the attitudes adopted by Chilean Foreign Minister Hernan Felipe Errazuriz, who said that this operation involved a transfer of technology.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman pointed out that an official response on this issue will be made through a special document addressed to the United Nations.

Carlos Ducci refused to comment on the reference to the foreign minister in terms of duplicity. I will not make any comments on this description of the foreign minister [words indistinct]. Our Foreign Ministry, the spokesman said, does not conduct diplomatic relations through personal descriptions.

In New York, the special UN committee pointed out that it is expecting a response from the Chilean Government and recalled that a letter was sent on 8 March 1989. This letter expressed the UN committee's serious concern. They insist that so far no substantial response on this issue has been received.

The communique issued by the UN committee also specifically mentions a recent 2-week visit to Chile by Lieutenant Magnus Malan, South African defense minister, in which he discussed strengthening military cooperation between the two countries.

Martinez Sotomayor Announces Candidacy
PY1304145189 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] Former Foreign Minister Carlos Martinez Sotomayor is an official presidential candidate.

This announcement was made by Attorney Joaquin Fontbona, who said that Martinez Sotomayor will represent the independent Chilean sectors.

Fontbona said that Martinez Sotomayor has the support of six different sectors.

*** PAIS Head Views Campaign Unity**
33480152a Santiago HOY in Spanish 13 Mar 89 pp 14-15

[Interview with Luis Maira, president of the Broad Party of the Socialist Left (PAIS) by Andrea Lagos; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted]

[HOY] We can see in the press at this juncture that what the opposition is fighting over is seats in Congress. Do you think that the opposition is prepared to support a single candidate?

[Maira] I think so. We knew that the plebiscite was half the work; the other half would come later. To do this second part we need accords on a common candidate, a government program and slates for the legislative elections.

[HOY] In supporting the opposition candidate, will you operate as PAIS or will you remain within the Concertacion like the PS-Almeyda [Socialist Party-Almeyda] and Christian Left?

[Maira] For all legal purposes we are PAIS. But support for the candidate would not necessarily mean that we would operate as PAIS within the Concertacion. Joining it could involve cumbersome red tape.

[HOY] There are people within the Concertacion who oppose the involvement of forces like PAIS. Edgardo Boeninger from DC [Christian Democracy], for example, has ruled out congressional pacts with communists who belong to PAIS. Would things like this be the "cumbersome" part of joining the Concertacion?

[Maira] It is difficult to get opposition political groups that are unlike to come to terms. But we can all understand that the only way to begin the transition is to place all of the opposition into a single bloc. The Concertacion played a major role in the plebiscite victory, but the votes that gained a triumph for No were not all provided by the parties of the Concertacion.

[HOY] So don't you think that it is very important for PAIS to belong to the Concertacion?

[Maira] The Concertacion is important but not decisive.

[HOY] Would PAIS agree to go along with the PPD [Party for Democracy] and the Humanists in a congressional bloc if one does not emerge from the single opposition slate?

[Maira] Naturally. Our proposal, of course, is that there be a joint slate with two lines. One independent line, which would be managed by the "small coalition," and a second leftist tendency that could include the PPD, PAIS, the Humanists and the Greens. If this option is not successful, we will be prepared to be part of a leftist bloc.

[HOY] Maybe some of the free-market members of the PPD wouldn't care to run in legislative elections as part of a leftist bloc...

[Maira] Those people entered into an alliance with us in the Concertacion for the No vote.

[HOY] At this moment are you ruling out two opposition candidates running for president?

[Maira] We see this as something that is tremendously negative.

[HOY] But you once said that if the opposition did not give the left some congressional seats, it could nominate its own candidate and run on its own...

[Maira] I never put it that way. What we have said is that in order for the transition to be handled properly, there must be a very broad understanding. Trying to get six more deputies by taking advantage of the electoral law is chicken today and feathers tomorrow. Whoever does that today is going to weep bitter tears and regret his political stupidity tomorrow.

[HOY] Are you alluding to DC?

[Maira] If a DC leader sought to get five more deputies by not caring much about an understanding, he would have a weak government to handle the transition in the future.

[HOY] Do you think that the four candidates for the opposition's presidential nomination have equal chances?

[Maira] All four are respectable individuals.

[HOY] But do they have the same chances?

[Maira] I would first like to underscore their merits. Any of the four would make a good president. Their chances are better or worse depending on the support they have among the people. And that can be seen today.

[HOY] Is Patricio Aylwin ahead right now?

[Maira] I don't want to mention any names. Any of the four would do, and we are holding talks to determine once and for all who would be the strongest.

[HOY] What advantages does Aylwin have over Silva Cimma, and vice versa?

[Maira] Aylwin has the advantage of having the biggest party, which carries a great deal of weight in our country's political life. He has an image as a moderate, which would enable him to put together a broader bloc for the transition. Enrique Silva Cimma has the support of a different bloc, which is linked to a secular view of the world and a more modern concept of social changes.

[HOY] Do you think that the DC will take advantage of its status as the most powerful opposition party and capitalize on the law that favors large political groups?

[Maira] I don't think it will, and if it did, it would be suicidal.

[HOY] Leftist leaders have said that they deserve 8 or 10 senators and as many deputies as the political center. How many legislators should the left rightly have?

[Maira] The fair thing would be for each party to have a chance to elect however many legislators it can in a system of proportional election.

[HOY] Haven't you done the arithmetic?

[Maira] No. But the arrangement of a single, integrated opposition slate allows this. If we put up both a centrist and a leftist, they are going to compete with each other. If the DC candidate gets the votes, he wins, but we have a better chance to get both legislators in the district because of the overflow from the stronger candidate.

[HOY] There is said to be an accord between DC and the PS-Almeyda under which the latter has pledged to support Aylwin for president...

[Maira] There is no such accord.

[HOY] But talks are going on.

[Maira] Of course they are. I have talked many times with Aylwin, just as I have talked with Silva Cimma. That does not imply support.

[HOY] Will PAIS also endorse the agreement between the PS-Nunez and the PS-Almeyda not to compete in the legislative elections?

[Maira] From what I have learned in my talks with the two parties, this agreement is not a pact; it is a general principle on which there are not yet details. In any event, an understanding between PPD and PAIS should not be incompatible.

[HOY] And speaking as PAIS, could you withdraw one of your legislative candidates and support a PPD candidate who may have a better chance in some district?

[Maira] We look at things with a different logic. We think that there should be integrated slates, even if there is not a single slate for the entire opposition. In other words, through a party merger we should put people from the PPD and PAIS on the same slate.

[HOY] In other words, you're not going to wait for the Junta to approve the pacts in order to run together?

[Maira] No, we are totally prepared to merge the parties.

[HOY] Your proposal is to form a single party with all opposition forces to control Congress. Do you really think this is possible?

[Maira] The choice is between a catastrophic scattering of our forces and winding up with less than 60 percent of Congress and the viable democratic utopia of getting together on a single slate and winning as we did on 5 October. We would form an umbrella coalition party that would represent all democratic sectors, operate for 8 months (from July to March 1990) and enable us to win the congressional elections. In March each party would reestablish itself.

[HOY] Does this proposition meet with the DC's acceptance?

[Maira] It ought to if the DC analyzes the difficulties of the upcoming transition and takes a good look at its chances of heading up this transition.

[HOY] Volodia Teitelboim recently reaffirmed the idea of the Popular Rebellion to defeat the government. The 15th Congress of the Communist Party [PC] also backed the armed approach. Since the PC belongs to PAIS, why don't you criticize this communist stand?

[Maira] We advocate the political defeat of the government. We do not believe in the approach of military force. The Communist Party is taking a series of important stands, but I think that in the end it will have to bear in mind the emergence of a transition government.

[HOY] What we are seeing here is that many of the agreements that PAIS could eventually sign within the Concertacion are being thwarted by the involvement of communist spokesmen in PAIS...

[Maira] PAIS does not represent the Communist Party.

[HOY] How do you intend to reach agreements with the other democratic forces when your party backs forces that are not democratic?

[Maira] The demand that the state have a monopoly on violence can be made only under a democratic government. Let's raise the problem of violence as a central problem when we have a democratic government. But let's not destroy the seedling and turn violence under a dictatorship into an obstacle to our alliances.

[HOY] According to some, your presence in the Democratic Alliance, in the National Accord and in the unsuccessful talks with Minister Carlos Caceres caused all of these initiatives to fail. To what is all this commotion due?

[Maira] It must be because I'm a leftist leader. And over these years the government has succeeded in building a model in which we left-wing democrats have no place. But this country is not possible without us. The people who say that I could be an obstacle are thinking that the way out of the current situation is an understanding between DC and National Renewal. Only an accord between part of the government and part of the opposition could view the involvement of a leftist leader in a broad bloc as negative.

*** Leftist Views Role, Future of Communist Party**
33480152b Santiago CAUCE in Spanish
13 Mar 89 pp 12-15

[Interview with Sergio Munoz Riveros by Victor Vaccaro; date and place not given; first six paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] For a man who is not officially considered a communist, Sergio Munoz Riveros' opinions are listened to quite closely in the PC [Communist Party of Chile]. There is no other explanation of the harsh public feud that this 45-year-old professor and writer has maintained with PC leader Jaime Inzunza about the call for the party's 15th Congress:

"I have spoken out on the 15th Congress and the future of the PC because of an imperative of my conscience," he argues. "I belonged to the communist ranks for 25 years and I think that the personal motivations that prompted me one day to join JJCC [Communist Youth] are still alive: the struggle for justice, for the rights of the most exploited, for a society of solidarity. I do not disavow the past, although naturally I strive to draw lessons from that past."

The fact is that the views of this "old" activist (he joined JJCC in 1962, eventually serving on its Executive Committee) represent those of many of his former comrades. After the coup Munoz went underground, until he was finally arrested by the DINA [National Intelligence Directorate] in 1975 and remained missing for a month. He was then held in several jails until November 1976, when he went into exile.

Reflection on the causes of the coup were followed by critical analyses and introspection. When we told him that some discredit this process and regard it as "reformist contamination," Sergio Munoz remarked: "Contamination is welcome if it means cultural enrichment and the capacity to reassess what one does and to compare some idyllic visions with the real world."

Certain events were decisive in distancing him from the party, such as the situation in Poland and the invasion of Afghanistan, both of which were "very traumatic for many communist activists." He refuses "to reopen those wounds, because they are very painful." He would rather ask himself about the causes of these tragedies. This is his response:

"I think that at this moment there is a comprehensive crisis of one approach to socialism. Twentieth-century socialism is taking stock of what has gone before, and we are obliged to look very honestly at this bottom line. From a revolutionary perspective it does no good to dodge the conclusions that must be drawn. This is the crisis of the authoritarian model, whose common denominator is the nondemocratic political system that has been built in Poland, the USSR, Hungary, etc. This has led to the establishment of bureaucratic, repressive and conservative regimes, as the Soviet leaders themselves describe them today. What is praiseworthy about Gorbachev is his frankness in self-criticism. In this regard they have gone further than Eurocommunism."

[CAUCE] Why do you think this phenomenon has been silenced here?

[Munoz] I agree that more information is needed on these processes. This is why a group of us intellectuals has founded the Institute for Dialogue and this month we will publish the first issue of a newsletter devoted to these topics. Entitled SOCIALISMO HOY, it is designed to provide background on the other countries of real socialism. Such a debate is indispensable in Chile as well.

[CAUCE] Spokesmen of the Chilean PC say that disagreement with perestroyka shows their independence from the USSR.

[Munoz] I think that the democratic transition is under way in Chile. The fact that the PC is staging a congress is a sign of the times in the country. It means opening up forums for discussion, and as far as I know, many communist activists are eager to know what is going on in the USSR and what implications it has for the principles that they have upheld. This process is still in its infancy and conclusions have not yet been drawn, but I am convinced that perestroyka is also going to come to Chile.

[CAUCE] In spite of the current leadership of the PC?

[Munoz] Because of the repression and the underground existence that it has had to withstand, the PC has been sort of self-absorbed in its ideology and doctrine as a defense mechanism against aggression. The Pinochet regime sought to wipe the communists and the left in general off the map. It did not succeed, which shows that the forces of the left have deep roots in the Chilean people. But digging in leads to a rejection of anything that does not square with the positions that have been held for a long time. I think that this gloomy environment will gradually change as room for freedom opens up in Chilean society. Communist activists have the same desire to exercise their democratic rights as the majority of Chileans, and we can see this in the unfolding of the 15th Congress. They have taken the floor and want to speak out.

[CAUCE] Doesn't stubbornly sticking to a confrontational approach make the transition difficult?

[Munoz] It would be a one-sided, black-and-white approach to contend that the PC alone has caused troubles. Over these 15 years and from the very beginning the PC has fought self-sacrificingly against the dictatorship. It has made a contribution that cannot be ignored. Since 1982, when the policy of the popular rebellion of the masses was implemented, there has been a certain emphasis on action that has objectively created troubles for the democratic movement.

[CAUCE] As the Lonquen cell says, hasn't this caused maximum isolation?

[Munoz] I would relate this situation to the plebiscite. There came a time when most of the political forces registered and campaigned for a no vote, whereas the leadership of the PC decided not to take that step, even though many of their activists were registering on their own. The PC realized willy-nilly that the battle for democracy was being waged there and it joined the campaign and made its contribution during the final stage. Right now some common sense is prevailing. There is a historic line, a past experience that is not dead. The PC is alive and is a player that must be taken into account, but the problem of its identity and its modernization is still pending.

[CAUCE] The call for the congress exaggerated the PC's belated contribution to the no campaign. Wasn't this an attempt by the leadership to avoid blame?

[Munoz] I commented on aspects of the call in two articles in the magazine ANALISIS. I don't want to dwell further on this. I want to see its positive side. I think that changes are under way, although they are not all of the changes that are needed. Momentum for change is coming from the PC rank and file, which is putting the emphasis on practicing realistic politics, establishing alliances, joining forces, invigorating grassroots organizations, struggling for grievances, everything that was part of the communist ABC's. In short, tuning in to people's specific problems.

[CAUCE] Your positive mood was met with disavowals from PC leaders. Why this bitterness?

[Munoz] You would have to ask the people who are expressing this bitterness. I don't detest anyone. If I have spoken out, it is because of an imperative of my conscience. Twenty-five years of activism are no small thing in my life.

[CAUCE] What are you after with such criticism?

[Munoz] I am not indifferent about what happens in the PC. I have very deep emotional ties to many people. I cannot think about the history of the PC without recalling dearly loved comrades like Enrique Paris Rosa, Fernando Ortiz Letelier or Jose Weibel. I care about what happens to the PC, even if I do not express my opinion from a cell.

[CAUCE] Could a democracy be stable if the PC did not make a loyal commitment to the system?

[Munoz] I think that the opinions of the best known spokesmen reflect a commitment to democracy. Mistaken statements must give way to realism.

[CAUCE] At the same time, however, Jaime Inzunza contends that the military element is a permanent factor in the PC's politics, even under a democracy...

[Munoz] I assume that the 15th Congress will have to voice a clear opinion on that; it will have to tell the country what its intentions are for the future. I cannot imagine a democratic system with the socialists with their own force, the right with its own, the communists with their own, etc. Democracy is not possible like that. The proper thing is for the political parties to establish a new relationship with the armed forces, a relationship of commitment to democratic values. What remains to be done is to extend democratic values throughout Chilean society. We need for the armed forces to become imbued with the culture of democracy, with the values of a regime that rests on the exercise of liberties. The experience of these 15 years ought to lead the armed forces to conclude that this business of waging war against the people has led to nothing positive. And naturally the social organizations have to make an effort at a rapprochement; a very frank dialogue between civilians and the military is required. The future national defense policy must be discussed openly, and this will mean that the armed forces must commit themselves to the future democracy and not be "at the foot of the cannon," as Pinochet says, playing a guardian's role, threatening society. The great majority of the country, including major sectors of the right, want the armed forces to discharge their professional function and want everyone to make a commitment to a system of liberties.

[CAUCE] What are the minimum requirements for a return to democracy?

[Munoz] Repeal of Article 8, putting an end to this policy of "civic apartheid." The PC has a right to again be a legal party. People like Jaime Guzman or Hugo Rosende cannot ask communists for certificates of democratic integrity. They have been victims of the most ruthless repression. The worst aberrations and crimes in Chile's history have been committed in the name of anticommunism.

[CAUCE] And haven't some barbarous acts been committed in the name of communism?

[Munoz] The communist movement does indeed have a tragic history that the Soviet press itself is highlighting today. We must learn lessons from this tragic experience. Democratic ends cannot be achieved with antidemocratic means. Any kind of despotism must be opposed.

[CAUCE] In Chile's case, isn't legitimizing the recourse to violence a tragic mistake?

[Munoz] I think it's a mistake. One requirement of the democratic transition is to eradicate political violence. Unless we establish ground rules that commit us to living together within the same borders, without trying to destroy each other in a confrontation, then there will be

no chance of civilized coexistence. The organs of state terrorism must be dismantled, but the challenge to the Rodriguez activists is also to accept peace.

[CAUCE] Buschman has just talked about a provisional suspension of armed actions...

[Munoz] The mention of Buschman compels me to indicate that people like him have shown great courage in the struggle against the dictatorship, but I think that his proposal is severely mistaken and divorced from the specific realities of our country. What Chile needs to do is displace the culture of war. Bombings do not further the cause of democracy; on the contrary, they further the reactionary sectors that are seeking to place as many obstacles as they can in the way of democracy. They are creating further pretexts for the regime's hardest-line sectors. It has been shown that violence is not the way.

[CAUCE] Is this an issue that a single party can make a decision on?

[Munoz] We must take stock by looking at what harms an entire people. In deciding on the forms of struggle, we must first consider the interests of the country. What is revolutionary is to thoroughly democratize Chilean society. This means confronting and defeating all forms of authoritarianism. To quote Antonio Gramsci, what is needed in Chile is an "intellectual and moral reform," based on ending abuses, high-handedness and contempt for individuals. Making the culture of life victorious. Opening doors and windows so that the sun and air can come in. Establishing coexistence based on justice. The program that unites us all is the defense of human rights as universal, absolutely inalienable rights.

[CAUCE] Do you think that the left has come to appreciate democracy?

[Munoz] I think that the left has given evidence of being consistently democratic throughout its history. From 1950 to 1970 the PC and PS [Socialist Party] were pillars of the republic's workings. I wouldn't say that their philosophy was that instrumental. What happened was that they were following a model that is in crisis today in real socialism and that has to do with the theoretical tradition of Marxism-Leninism, in which the forms of politics are not given sufficient importance. Perestroyka is none other than an appeal to debate this model and to turn democracy into a matter of principle. Socialism must be democracy carried to its ultimate consequences.

[CAUCE] Do you agree that to "perfect democracy" a "dictatorship of the proletariat" is needed?

[Munoz] This is one of the knotty points in the rethinking of socialism that is on the agenda today. I think that in the 1960's the PC was engaged in developing a valuable program that was based on its own experience as a popular force in Chile and that in fact distanced it from the theoretical model that goes back to the Soviet original. Popular Unity's program was an attempt to explore a national change and, on the basis of the existing institutions themselves, to carry out a process of revolutionary transformations in which political liberties and the country's independence would deepen. This experience needed a theory, because it was not the model of the dictatorship of the proletariat. At this juncture, now that we know about the horrors of Stalinism, no one can say that the concept of the dictatorship of the proletariat is going to be maintained intact, weathering all of the storms of history. This concept is in crisis and is being revised, naturally. I conceive of socialism only as democracy.

[CAUCE] What conclusions in this regard do you think the PC Congress will reach?

[Munoz] I can't know what the final outcome will be. In any event, the first positive result is that the congress itself is being held. This has given rise to a debate dynamic, which has given activists a chance to become involved in decision-making. There is no reason to think that communist activists are not interested in exercising their democratic rights inside their own party, including the election of their leaders. My impression is that certain changes of emphasis are coming about that are in tune with the democratic tasks for which the PC is preparing itself, such as the upcoming electoral battle. It is true that we are hearing homage paid to the slogan "rebellion of the masses," but some spokesmen acknowledge that it even includes participation in elections. Events, actions are the important thing, and they indicate that the militaristic approaches are in retreat. I think that the rank and file are pushing to unfurl the banners that have characterized the political history of the PC in Chile. I think that the country needs for the PC to make another contribution to the development of democracy in the near future, in the understanding that the possibility of becoming legal is very closely tied to its policy not creating mistrust among the rest of the democratic forces. This means changes. There are already some signs in this direction, but the PC has to decide this matter on its own.

[CAUCE] What are the principal pending issues?

[Munoz] Strategic approaches having to do with its view of the future, and the way that it sees socialism and democracy. We are coming to a point where the challenge to Communist parties is to rethink socialism.

[CAUCE] The PC has been compared to a elephant. Don't you think that it may arrive too late?

[Munoz] I don't know.

* PCCh Described as Isolated, Peripheral

33480152c Santiago CAUCE in Spanish
13 Mar 89 pp 16-17

[Commentary by Jose Joaquin Brunner: "The Debasement of the PC"]

[Text]

Isolation

It is a fact that the PC [Communist Party of Chile] is isolated. Politically and culturally it is going against the grain of the return to democracy that Chilean society has been engaged in. This is the result of several interrelated factors. Some are short term:

- The political line launched by the communist leadership in September 1980 is to overthrow the military government "through the action of the masses, the use of legitimate violence and the most diverse forms of struggle."
- The strategy of the popular rebellion and the national uprising that arise from this line.
- The resulting push given to the development of its military force "in order to discharge certain functions consistent with the circumstances and with the unfolding of the social process."
- As a result of its line and strategy, the reluctance that the PC showed towards the political, social and electoral mobilization that brought the opposition victory on 5 October.

Petrification

The other factors that have led to the PC's isolation are more permanent. The most important are:

- Its ideological rigidity, which keeps it tied to an anachronistic and doctrinaire dogmatism, without understanding the evolution that has taken place in the theory and politics of socialism.
- Its adherence to a "handbook" Marxism-Leninism that detracts from its intellectual credibility and influence outside its activist circle.
- Its thinly veiled silence about the crisis in the socialist bloc: bureaucratic authoritarianism in the USSR, centrally planned economies, the single-party model, administrative control over culture, etc.
- At the same time, its reluctance to incorporate the new revisionisms of the communist camp: glasnost and perestroyka, a limited pluralism of factions, market incentives in the economy, recognition of opposition unions, an end to the theory of the class struggle on an international level, etc.

Reactions

As a result of this evolution the PC has lost its most important asset: being a party that can influence the course of events. In contrast, it has become a peripheral group at present. It is not part of the "mainstream" of national politics. Its line and strategy are rejected by the entire spectrum of the democratic opposition. Even its potentially most important ally, the PS-Almeyda [Socialist Party-Almeyda], is clearly distancing itself from the communists. Moreover, the proposal of the popular rebellion and the use of all forms of struggle strike no responsive chord whatsoever in the population, as the opinion polls conducted over the past 18 months have consistently shown.

Rifts

It should be no surprise, then, given this picture, that disagreements with this line have begun to express themselves within the PC. During its 15th Congress, which is currently under way, various communist activists and leaders have gone public with their disagreement with the PC's current leadership. A recent statement (the Lonquen cell) speaks of "adventurist and opportunist left-wing positions within the party" and charges the leadership of the PC with making some 10 deviations and blunders. In an interview with a Santiago morning paper, one mid-level leader wound up putting his finger on the spot that most hurts the PC leadership by indicating that "...even this business of weapons has led to an erroneous political leadership that today has claimed many victims both in cemeteries and in jails. And man's culture and spiritual life, to which the party has always attached great importance, have regrettably been neglected" (LA EPOCA, 9 March).

No Solution

The congress is unlikely to make major changes in the PC's line and strategy. All indications are that the party leadership "will reaffirm what has been done," will alter slightly the time-honored prescriptions (popular rebellion, the use of all forms of struggle, etc) and will close ranks tightly with the rallying cry: the time has not yet come to criticize with weapons.

Actually, the PC has come to a dead end. It has staked all of its historic prestige and the moral testimony of its activists and martyrs on a line that, like the horizon, grows ever more distant as the process of rebuilding democracy in Chilean society moves forward. To abandon this line now would mean admitting that there was no reason even for the sacrifices that have been demanded. To adhere to it, however, would mean that the PC has no reason to exist.

A party like this is used to being and is respected for being a party of the working class and its subculture, a party that has effectively defended the rights of the workers', a party of organized labor and austere ethics, of formalism and earnestness, a party that seeks to safeguard national interests and to promote a progressive culture, a party of moderation and puritanism that has earned the admiration even of the Chilean bourgeoisie. Such a party makes no historic sense when it becomes its opposite or something very different from what it was until 1980.

What I mean is a relatively ineffective party that is divorced from the sentiments of the organized workers, that represents socially designated strata which carry

little weight in the economy and in culture, a party led by spokesmen who have become extreme radicals and employ frivolous, confused rhetoric, a party that prefers grandstanding to results, that allows itself to get carried away in adventures and that mistakes dreams for reality.

In a word, the direction in which the PC is headed leads to its debasement.

*** Vicariate Funding, Records Under Investigation**
33480149 Santiago QUE PASA in Spanish
2 Mar 89 pp 19-20

[Text] It was not just once, but many times, that the Vicariate of Solidarity has been described as a "nest of Marxists." In many cases, these were suppositions, and in others statements such as those of Prosecutor Ambrosio Rodriguez, who said he had a list of more than 100 employees of this department who were members of the Communist Party. (The Vicariate employs 126 persons in all.) Obviously, it has not been published to date.

Perhaps the most serious development with regard to the Vicariate of Solidarity is the trial being held in the ad hoc military court in connection with the assassination of a carabineer, Miguel Vasquez Tobar, by a cell of the FMR [Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front] in 1986.

At present the public prosecutor, Sergio Cea, and earlier, his former commander, Colonel Fernando Torres, have minimized matters in their investigation, collection and collation of each of the items of evidence which—not without a certain difficulty—they could obtain. To the point, obviously, that complaint appeals have been filed by that body.

For the time being, although it has not been possible to prove anything, there are those who presume that the ecclesiastical institution is not entirely honest, and that certain unacceptable "peccadilloes" have been committed, and that therefore, it would be better not to turn too bright a light on it. Obviously, its officials are denying everything to the death—with crucifix in hand.

Are They Good Samaritans?

The skeptics answer that they have no confidence in the Vicariate. Proof, it is true, they do not have. But they do not believe that there are no officials there who might have provided a little aid to the extremists in this country.

The problem is a complex one. Within this department, it is not flatly denied that some of those individuals who benefited from some of the services rendered might have been terrorists. But, there is great haste to explain, in no case were such individuals aided knowingly. The fact is that many come to request help. Above all in periods of protest, when, they say, aid is given to anyone, without question. As in the parable of the good Samaritan.

Cea is looking into whether in the case of the murdered carabineer the action was consistent with the teachings of that parable or not. For in fact, at the beginning of this tangle, the present defendant, Hugo Gomez Pena, arrived at the Vicariate, having been shot. He was in fact cared for by Dr Ramiro Olivares and lawyer Gustavo Villalobos, and later referred by those same employees to the Chiloe Clinic. And, in fact, he was hidden for some time in various FMR houses. This is the evidence they have.

And on the basis of these investigations, Cea has been able to establish certain links between the Vicariate of Solidarity and members of the Front, who on various occasions went to that institution or to the Chiloe Clinic for treatment. It is here that the clothing does not seem to some people to be overly clean.

The proof includes the following:

In the report this ad hoc court sent to the Supreme Court before it ruled on the complaint appeal submitted by Monsignor Valech, there are the following statements:

"When the medical care provided to the fugitive Gomez Pena at the Chiloe Clinic was established, documents were seized which made it possible to prove and establish, following a visual inspection of the records of that clinic, that it had provided care to 39 persons who had been wounded by small bore and other bullets and other foreign bodies."

"The injured persons included, apart from the defendant, the extremist Hugo Gomez, Francisco Alberto Escobar Munoz. He was shot during a day of protest on 4 September 1984, and was tried on 17 May 1986 for the crimes of possession of illegal weapons, possession of explosives and organizing and participating in armed combat groups."

"It has been established that since 1983 there has been a verbal agreement between the Vicariate of Solidarity and the Chiloe Clinic concerning the referral to the latter of those most seriously injured during the days of protest. This system of providing medical aid was used by definitely extremist elements in order to avoid the pertinent report to the courts, and both Dr Ramiro Olivares and the rebel defendant Ramon Rojas (the director of the Chiloe Clinic) were aware of the identity of the patient and the circumstances as a result of which wounds caused by bullets or other foreign bodies were incurred."

"On the other hand, it should be emphasized that in various cases brought before the military courts, the relationship of the defendants with individuals directly linked with the Vicariate of Solidarity. The defendant Victor Diaz Caro, for example, who was 'tried for the attack on the president,' participated, according to his own confession, in an explosive attack on the Army Intelligence Battalion, in which he was seriously wounded. He was treated and operated on at the Chiloe Clinic by Dr Ramon Rojas. Also, another defendant in

the Pinochet attack trial, Patricia Herreros Mediavilla, an employee of the Chiloe Clinic at one time, specifically stated that she had visited offices of the Vicariate as a representative of the clinic on a number of occasions, for the purpose of arranging medical care for those persons who required these services during the days of protest."

This is the evidence available to the prosecutor's office. The body which answers to the archbishopric denies some of it. In other instances, no one remembers, or, it is insisted, many persons were cared for with no questions as to their affiliation. In any case, this is a subject for investigation.

Where Does the Money Come From?

Another aspect which requires interpretation is the finances of the Vicariate of Solidarity. Intensive efforts are being made, because the truth is that no reliable figures in this connection are available. Not even Enrique Palet was willing to talk about last year's budget. He gave his reasons: "On the day others publish these figures, we will publish ours."

This aspect is of concern in the prosecutor's office as well. There have been certain differences with the Vicariate, or rather considerable bitterness, whenever Torres has attempted to obtain information from the AFP or Isapres, with which the 126 employees of the Vicariate are affiliated.

As far as is known, the Committee for Peace relied on foreign donations initially. Organizations linked with the religious denominations were the first link in a long chain which even came to include nonreligious institutions.

In just the 2 years the Committee for Peace has been operating, $1,800,000 (something like 500 million current pesos) were spent. More than a half of this budget (a million dollars), it is said, were contributed by the World Council of Churches.

Along with that body, the leading financers of the Committee for Peace at that time included the Catholic Episcopal Conference of the United States, the nonreligious organization named OXFAM, Misercor, and the Taive Community.

The finance unit, created at almost the same time as the organization, always reported to the executive secretariat. Its work was to maintain relations with international bodies, both religious and nonreligious, which financed the work. Those who worked there also had the task of drafting and later evaluating the projects which were sent abroad to support the financing appeals. Finally, it was also responsible for hiring personnel and paying the salaries of the almost 300 employees the Committee had.

During 1985, the Vicariate had some outside audits. Some were carried out by the agencies which donated funds. Another was carried out at the request of the archbishop of Santiago. Prestigious firms in this sector concluded that the administrative management of the Vicariate was satisfactory.

Currently, where funds are concerned, nothing has changed very much. It is the executive secretary, Enrique Palet, who manages them. With the help, obviously, of the department of finance.

According to what Palet himself has said, 80 percent of the Vicariate's money comes from religious institutions, 16 percent from other bodies, 2 percent from private donations, and the other 2 percent from the REVISTA SOLIDARIDAD.

It is not a question of money which comes to the Archbishopric of Santiago first and is then turned over to this dependency. On the contrary, the Vicariate has current accounts in the name of the "archbishop of Santiago/Vicariate of Solidarity," to which it makes direct deposits. The RUT [not further identified] of this institution is even equal to that of the archbishopric, except for one digit—the last.

Difficult Investigation

Palet also said that the last audits were made some 6 months ago, and nothing unusual was found. The firms entrusted with making the audits were Bakovic and Balic, affiliated with Ernst and Whinney International, and Pinedo Brothers. The latter are also responsible for the accounting audit of the archbishopric.

Although it is not known for certain what budget the Vicariate has, it is expected that it must be more than generous. In fact, the budget of the Archbishopric of Santiago came to a total of 300 million pesos in 1987, and as far as is known, the salaries and honoraria between 1983 and 1987 came to no less than 740 percent. For example, a staff lawyer earns more than 300,000 pesos. In addiion, the 126 employees have excellent working conditions. Their wages are adjusted every 3 months on the basis of 100 percent of the IPC [Consumer Price Index].

According to sources at the prosecutor's office, the national tax authorities have not been able to learn the origin or nature of the income of this body. The fact is that the Chilean Church can "create" organizations by means of canonic decree, as was done with the Vicariate. It is then only "presumed" that they are bodies in public law, but in practice they are inadequately supervised by the state—either by the national tax authorities or by the labor office. Moreover, since they are regarded as "nonprofit" institutions, they do not file tax declarations, because it is understood that their income does not serve this purpose.

Colombia

Barco Calls for Combined Antidrug Effort

PA1404191289 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] President Barco, in a speech in Washington this morning, vigorously defended Colombia's image regarding its struggle against drug trafficking, terrorism, and common crime. He pointed to the eradication of illiteracy, commented on the nation's economic indexes, and said that countless Colombians have been assassinated in their struggle against drug trafficking.

President Barco invited other area countries to join efforts to end drug cultivation, trafficking, and consumption. Colombia cannot fight this evil alone, Barco asserted. He gave specific statistics about blows that have been struck against Colombian drug cartels.

[Begin Barco recording in English, fading into Spanish translation] I came to make an appeal to you. Let us all combine our efforts and energies in an alliance that is stronger and better coordinated than that of the drug traffickers. We need an alliance of nations affected by drug trafficking in order to respond effectively. Drug trafficking is not the problem of a single nation, or even of a group of nations. It is a universal outrage. Unless we devise strong and effective means of international cooperation to fight against all phases of the problem, a final victory will not be possible.

For this reason, I wish to use this forum to make a new proposal to reflect the sense of urgency that we all feel with regard to this problem. We—all the presidents of the American hemisphere, along with President Bush and our other colleagues of those nations most affected by the international drug trafficking scourge—should meet as soon as possible to jointly exercise the public, political authority conferred upon us by the will of our people. [end recording]

The Colombian president reiterated his condemnation of weapons production and trafficking, highlighted Colombia's democracy, and said that his country will increase efforts in its continued struggle against drug trafficking.

Barco on U.S. Visit, Meeting With DEA

PA1604030989 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0128 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] While in Washington, Colombian President Virgilio Barco proposed that the Central American presidents meet to put together a single policy to combat drug trafficking.

Barco addressed 1,500 U.S. reporters and, upon returning to Colombia last night, spoke with local reporters as well. In his speech, Barco tried to convince the U.S. Government that it should fight drug trafficking as strongly as Colombia does. He said that a message must be sent to both the wealthy and the cities' poorest sectors: Illegal drugs are neither glamorous nor harmless. He warned that drug users have sided with the enemy by working through those who produce and distribute drugs on the streets.

[Reporter] "What effect did the tongue lashing you gave them have?

[Barco] "I never lash out at anyone. It so happens that those of us from the coast usually speak the truth directly."

Barco met in private with DEA officials Jack Lone and Robert Stuman.

[Reporter] "In the private meeting, did the DEA officials mention that Senator Medina Sanchez is involved in drug trafficking?

[Barco] "The DEA officials and I never touched upon anything even remotely related to your biased question."

Barco will return to the United States in July. He will confirm at that time whether what he has just proposed had a positive effect or if Colombia will continue stacking up corpses and spending what little money it has in the effort to curtail drug trafficking.

ELN Frees 10 Inmates From Ocana Prison

PA1704024089 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0109 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Report by Janeth Cepeda]

[Text] An Army of National Liberation [ELN] column attacked the Ocana prison this morning and freed 10 prisoners. According to authorities, the guerrillas released nine men and one woman who were serving sentences for various crimes.

[Begin recording] [Cepeda] After dynamiting a power tower at 2200, which left the town of Ocana without electricity, the guerrillas entered the prison by climbing a small 2-meter wall at approximately 0130. The rebels surprised three guards, intimidating them with a rifle shot. They then proceeded to free nine men and one woman from cells one and two. Four of these prisoners had been found guilty of murder and had been serving sentences since 1987. The remaining six were accused of extortion and were to be brought to trial on Tuesday, after their initial trial proceeding was canceled the preceding Friday.

The guerrilla action took only 6 minutes. During this time, they located the prison director and forced him to give them 13 .38-caliber revolvers, 1 .30-caliber rifle, and a large amount of ammunition.

[Prison Director Alvaro Suarez] The city had no electricity. We tried, unsuccessfully, to use an electric generator to provide light for the prison. Furthermore, the noise from the generator distracted the guards.

[Cepeda] At this time, Ocana is completely under military control and still remains without electric power. [end recording]

Ecuador

Defense Ministry Announces Officer Transfers

PA1604010289 Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 6 Apr 89 p A-2

[Text] Several changes have been made in the top command of the Ecuadoran Armed Forces, the Defense Ministry officially reported yesterday.

According to General Order No 061 and Ministry Resolution No 589, issued last 31 March at the request of the Army High Command, the following officers have been transferred:

Brigadier General Jaime Andrade Buitron of Brigade No 5 in Guayas has been transferred to the Army Personnel Department.

Brigadier General Victor Manuel Vayas Garcia of the Army Academy has been transferred to the Army Personnel Department.

Brigadier General Eduardo Anibal Altamirano has been assigned to other duties within the Army's General Department.

Brigadier General Juan Francisco Donoso Game has been transferred from Brigade No 1 in El Oro to Brigade No 5 in Guayas, as interim commander and chief of the 2d Military Zone.

Brigadier General Nelson Orlando Herrera Nieto has been transferred from the Army's Education Department to the Personnel Department.

Brigadier General Abraham Edmundo Luna Cordova has been transferred from Jungle Brigade No 19 in Napo to Brigade No 17 in Pastaza, as interim commander and chief of the 4th Military Zone.

Brigadier General Gustavo Alexis Tamayo Villalba has been transferred from Brigade No 17 in Pastaza to the Army's Personnel Department, as interim chief.

Colonel Jorge Antonio Espinoza has been transferred from the Ministerial Cabinet to the Army's War College, as interim director.

Colonel Paco Moncayo Gallegos is serving as interim commander of Army Brigade No 1 until a new commander is appointed.

Minister Denies Exceeding OPEC Oil Quota

PA1604000289 Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 6 Apr 89 p A-1

[Text] Ecuadoran Energy Minister Diego Tamariz has stated that Ecuador is complying with the crude oil production quota set by OPEC.

The minister denied charges that Ecuador has been admonished for allegedly producing more than the quota allowed by the international organization.

Tamariz said that Ecuador's oil production falls within its OPEC production quota set in December 1988, adding that reports to the contrary are false and unfounded.

Ecuador's OPEC oil production quota is 221,000 barrels a day.

Peru

Minister Announces Deal for USSR Helicopters

PA1604012389 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0038 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] Lima, 15 Apr (EFE)—Armando Villanueva del Campo, Peruvian prime minister and interior minister, announced today that Peru will purchase helicopters from the Soviet Union under an agreement that was signed by the two countries many years ago and that has now been renewed.

Villanueva did not say how many helicopters will be purchased, how much they will cost, or for what they will be used. He did not specify the class or characteristics of the helicopters either.

The prime minister today attended a ceremony at which illegal drugs with a street value of approximately $10 million were burned outside Lima, at a place known as Fundo Barbadillo. After the ceremony, he made statements in which he referred to the purchase of the helicopters, which are believed to be intended for fighting drug trafficking in Peru's northern jungle. "The Peru Report," which is published in English in Peru, reported in its April issue that Peru will purchase at least 15 Mi-17 Soviet helicopters and 8 helicopters from the FRG—6 BO-105's and 2 BK-117's.

According to the publication, the German helicopters will cost between $25 million and $30 million and the Soviet helicopters will be purchased under a barter arrangement.

In addition, the publication said that Peru intends to train commandos to fight drug traffickers in the jungle in accordance with British models.

Government Approves International Agreements

PY1404154789 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1040 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] The government has approved the agreement on the repression of illegal violent acts in civilian international airports that was signed in Montreal, Canada, on 24 February 1988. The government has also approved the convention on preserving Antarctica's biological maritime resources that was signed in Canberra, Australia, on 20 May 1980. The approval of these international agreements is included in two separate legislative resolutions published in the gazette.

Andean Parliament Board Meets 14 Apr

PY1404170389 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1040 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] Senate President Romualdo Biaggi will today chair the first meeting of the Andean Parliament board. This meeting will be held in the Senate Ambassadors Room. The schedule of the Andean Parliament board meeting, which will end tomorrow, includes the laying of wreaths at the Simon Bolivar and Victor Haya de la Torre monuments and the hoisting of the Andean Parliament flag at the Bolivar Plaza.

Shining Path Kills 24 in Huancayo, Ayacucho

PY1404124089 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2034 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] Lima, 13 Apr (EFE)—The National Police today reported in Lima that Shining Path guerrillas have killed 24 civilians in the Andean provinces of Huancayo and in the Department of Ayacucho. Two alleged terrorists died in the southern Department of Ayacucho.

The incidents occurred after Prime Minister Armando Villanueva issued a report to the country on the antisubversive struggle and after he had stressed that the guerrillas are being annihilated.

The Peruvian National Police Director, General Ruben Romero, has reported that the two alleged terrorists died before dawn today during an attack on a police station in the town of Cora Cora, in Ayacucho.

The police also reported that on 11 April a group of Shining Path terrorists attacked the Chongos District in Huancayo and detained 12 civilian officials. The terrorists shot and wounded them, tied their hands and feet, cut their jugular veins, and let them bleed to death in the main square.

Witnesses told the police that the terrorists killed the 12 officials 2 weeks after they arrested 2 alleged terrorists and placed them at the disposal of the court in Huancayo, 415 km east of Lima.

Two guerrillas also killed Juan Torres, 21, regional youth leader of the ruling American Popular Revolutionary Alliance in downtown Huancayo.

Police spokesman said tonight that some 100 guerrillas attacked the towns of Tantarpata and Jotapuquio in Ayacucho, killing 11 peasants and wounding 2.

Peasants from Tantarpata, where 10 people were killed, said that the terrorists burned several houses and stole food, medicine, and liquor.

A senate committee analyzing terrorism has reported that 570 people were killed in Shining Path terrorist attacks in the first quarter of 1989. The Shining Path terrorist organization began its attacks on 17 May 1980.

According to Vice President Luis Alberto Sanchez, the armed struggle has caused material damages worth over $12 billion.

Uruguay

Vice President Announces Amnesty Law Victory

PY1704025189 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0220 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] Montevideo, 16 Apr (AFP)—Uruguayan Vice President Enrique Tarigo tonight announced the victory of the yellow vote in the referendum. The yellow vote is a vote to retain the law of amnesty for members of the Armed Forces. Tarigo added that the victory "represents the end of the transition" started by the consitutional government 4 years ago.

Tarigo, who is also secretary general of the Colorado Party, said on television that the human rights issue "was the last and most difficult problem" for the administration of President Julio Maria Sanguinetti.

According to partial results and unofficial estimates, the yellow vote will get about 60 percent of the votes.

U.S. Senator Criticized for Plebiscite Letter

PY1504165789 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0930 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Excerpts] Interior Minister Antonio Marchesano has said that they expect the plebiscite to take place normally and with all necessary guarantees. [passage omitted]

The minister also expressed his hopes that U.S. Senator Edward Kennedy will have the sense to apologize to the Uruguayan people for recently stating that he doubts the plebiscite will be held in compliance with the law. Marchesano added that Kennedy had lost his chance to beg Uruguay's forgiveness but that he hoped he will apologize for his frivolous letter to the Uruguayan ambassador to the United States, Hector Luisi.

In a statement to Radio Rivadavia of Buenos Aires, the minister added that if Kennedy is so concerned about the situation in Latin America and Uruguay, he owes us an apology. Marchesano then termed Kennedy's letter an unwise step that reveals that he doesn't really know the true situation in Uruguay.

Kennedy had demanded that the Uruguayan Government adopt immediate measures to ensure that tomorrow's plebiscite will be a free, fair, and democratic event.

Buenos Aires Case on Missing Citizens Suspended

PY1504192889 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0930 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] Court sources in Buenos Aires this morning disclosed that a civilian judge had provisionally suspended the pretrial inquest into the alleged participation of Uruguayan officers in cases of torture and missing Uruguayan citizens in Argentina during the military regime.

The case has now been handed down to the Federal Appellate Court following the appeal submitted by the relatives of 136 Uruguayan citizens reported missing in Argentina during 1976-78.

Judge Miguel Pont said that this decision was based on a lack of evidence identifying the perpetrators of the crimes being investigated.

The judge also said that the report drawn up by the Commission in Charge of Investigating the Fate of Missing People and sent by the Uruguayan Chamber of Deputies to Argentine court authorities did not provide sufficient evidence.

Barrios Departs for Group of 8-EEC Meeting

PY1404123589 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0410 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] Montevideo, 13 Apr (EFE)—Uruguayan Foreign Minister Luis Barrios Tassano today left for Spain to attend the meeting next weekend between representatives of the Group of Eight and the 12 EEC foreign ministers.

The meeting will be held in Granada (southern Spain), where they will discuss the EEC's economic and political relationship with the Group of Eight countries—Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela. Panama has been temporarily excluded from the group due to its institutional problems.

The meeting in Spain will be the first to be held between the Group of Eight and the EEC foreign ministers outside the United Nations, which has already hosted three such meetings in the past.

According to information disclosed in Montevideo today by diplomatic sources, Enrique Iglesias, a former Uruguayan foreign minister and current IDB chairman, has been specially invited to the meeting.

The foreign debt problem and Latin American development are among the main topics to be discussed in Granada.

Venezuela

Court Orders Release of 19 El Amparo Suspects

PA1504235089 Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 7 Apr 89 pp 1-1, 4-33

[By Indalecio Chacon]

[Excerpt] San Cristobal, Apr 6—Shortly before 1300 today, and in compliance with a court-martial ruling, 19 civilians and military personnel who had been imprisoned at the Occidente Penitentiary in Santa Ana were released. They had been charged with killing 14 men in Cano Colorada, El Amparo Jurisdiction, Apure State, on 29 October 1988.

The prisoners were met at the prison gates by relatives and friends who cheered Venezuela and military justice.

The orders for their release arrived in the morning. Immediately after, legal and internal proceedings were conducted to obtain the release of the 15 police officers and 4 soldiers who were imprisoned as the result of an arrest warrant issued on 30 December by the San Cristobal Permanent Court-Martial, headed by Colonel Angel Edecio Zambrano Chaparro. The charges included first-degree murder, illegal possession of weapons, and conspiring to commit an unlawful act.

It was learned here that the court-martial ruling aroused much discontent and anxiety among the residents of El Amparo village, where Wolmer Gregorio Pinilla and Jose Augusto Arias, the two fishermen who survived the tragic incident, live. The court-martial ruling also overturned the arrest of Pinilla and Arias. The warrant for their arrest had been issued by Major Ricardo Jose Perez Gutierrez, judge of the Permanent Court-Martial, for the military crime of rebellion. [passage omitted]

Smaller Industries Face Financial 'Crisis'

PA1604044189 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 1600 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] Small- and medium-size industrial sectors are experiencing a financial crisis as a result of a shortage of raw material and capital and because of high interest rates. According to the president of Fedeindustrias, Jose Luis Santoro, small- and medium-size industries can survive only if they can count on a 20 billion bolivares budget [as heard].

Santoro clearly stated that more than 400 enterprises are about to collapse due to a lack of economic resources and that Corpoindustria, (Poncrei), and the National Guarantees Fund could prevent a collapse of this economic sector.

[Begin Santoro recording] Industries such as the clothing industry, which depend on a fluid economy, are completely paralyzed. Only an injection of money with interest rates in line with what these industries can afford to pay will reactivate these industries. [end recording]

Government, Banks To Subsidize Housing Loans

PA1604170589 Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 6 Apr 89 pp 1, 12

[Summary] The Council of Ministers has decided to abrogate Decree 29, which regulated subsidies on mortgage loans. It was decided that the new rate for housing loans will be 15 percent for houses worth no more than 1.5 million bolivares.

Following the Council of Ministers meeting, President Carlos Andres Perez met with a group of bank executives. The bankers and President Perez agreed to create a joint commission to seek solutions to common financial problems. The commission will establish mechanisms by which government and banks will share the burden of subsidizing mortage loans.

Guyana

Workers Strike Against Government Budget

Dismissal of Strikers Cited

FL1404134489 Bridgetown CANA in English 2229 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, April 13, CANA—The General Council of the Clerical and Commercial Workers Union (CCWU) announced a special session today to discuss the sacking of nearly 250 of its members who went on strike Tuesday.

Those sacked were all employed by state-owned entities—about 130 by Guyana National Trading Corporation (GNTC), 60 by Guyana Stores Ltd (GSL), 34 by Guyana National Engineering Corporation (GNEC) and about 20 by the Guyana Airways Corporation (GAC).

CCWU members employed by at least five private sector companies also responded to their unions and the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Guyana's (FITUG) call for strike action.

The protest was against the government's controversial budget and its consequential steep rise in the cost of living due to a 70 percent devaluation of the Guyana dollar.

Up to today, however, there have been no reports of any workers from the private sector firms being fired for going on strike. On the day of the strike, CCWU President Gordon Todd had told CANA and sections of the local media that several of the unions 4,000 members had responded to the strike calls and were off the job.

The union, he said, had opted for a "mixed strategies" approach so that while some members were on strike, others were either on go-slow or had staged "sick-outs".

Responding to the state companies decision to fire those workers who went on strike, Todd said the decision was "high handed" and "totally out of place" and the CCWU will be making "vigorous representations" for the reinstatement of the workers, and was confident it will win the battle.

Strikes were first launched in the sugar and bauxite sectors, then spread to the business sector.

Sugar workers who went on strike last week have started "trickling back to their jobs," the state-owned Guyana Sugar Corporation (GUYSUCO) reported Wednesday.

"The turnout percentage, though comparatively small, is seen as an encouraging sign that the workers are allowing better sense to prevail...," the corporation said.

The corporation reported "some improvement," in the turn out of cane cutters at four of its eight estates and in the factory and clerical staff at three estates.

Anti-Budget Protests Continue

FL1404225389 Bridgetown CANA in English 2153 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, April 14, CANA—The Guyana police arrested 17 demonstrators Friday, as protests over the government's controversial 1989 national budget continued.

The arrests occurred in the west Demerara area, during a procession witnesses said involved more than 1,500 persons. The police said the procession was illegal.

The budget included a seventy per cent devaluation of the Guyana dollar. It triggered sharp price increases.

Strikes started in the bauxite sector, spreading to the sugar belt, then the commercial sector.

According to press reports, there were "anti-budget" and "pro-government" demonstrations at Anna Regina on the Essequibo coast today. While there were no demonstrations reported in the capital, Georgetown, today, attention was focused on plans by the Patriotic Coalition for Democracy (PCD) to stage a series of whistle stop and other meetings in the city and along the east bank and east coast Demerara, Saturday.

Attention was also focused today on the plight of an estimated 250 workers—all members of the Clerical and Commercial Workers Union (CCWU)—who were sacked by their public sector employers Wednesday. This was for staging a one-day strike Tuesday to protest against the budget. The CCWU executive members led by President Gordon Todd opened a busy day, meeting separately with the managements of the Guyana National Trading Corporation (GNTC), Guyana Stores Ltd (GSL), Guyana National Engineering Corporation (GNEC) and the Guyana Airways Corporation, but no details of those talks were available. Todd and his team were scheduled to meet with the dismissed workers at the CCWU headquarters later today.

The Guyana Sugar Corporation, meanwhile, reported that workers continued to trickle back to work but the corporation's eight factories remained idle as most sugar workers began their second week of strike action. Some 40 acres of fully ripened cane ready for harvesting at Diamond, east bank Demarara were, however, reportedly destroyed, by arsonists Wednesday night and quick work by security personnel at Herstelling, also on the east bank Demerara, prevented more cane from going up in flames Thursday night, the corporation reported.

By far the majority of bauxite workers who have been on strike since April 3, also remained off the job.

Meanwhile, press and publicity secretary of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Guyana (FITUG), veteran trade unionist Leslie Melville, accused the government of splitting trade unions. He told journalists at a press conference that Guyana's head of state and President Desmond Hoyte may be guilty of "deep seated prejudice" towards FITUG because of circumstances related to the death of his two daughters and his sister-in-law and chauffeur as well as the injury of his wife in an accident on a local highway in 1985. The tragic accident occured in the Linden-Soesdyke highway when Hoyte's family was travelling to Linden to be present at a labour day rally.

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